

Polk and Post (Parade)
...and other Gay Pride
celebrations around town.
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Whole Lott of misinformation
Senate majority leader mouths off
about the 'sin' of homosexuality.
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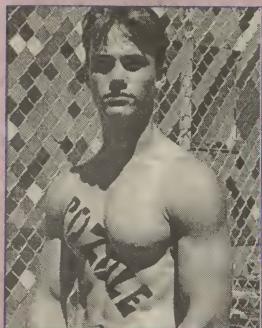
Polymorphously perverse
'98 SF Lesbian & Gay Film Fest
covers the sexual waterfront.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Josh Puckett at the '97 Pride Parade

Poliakov murder witnesses talk with the B.A.R.

by Ed Walsh, ©1998
Bay Area Reporter

Opining arguments are scheduled to get underway this Monday, June 22 in the murder case against *XY Magazine* coverboy Josh Puckett, but the fireworks have already begun as the strongest witnesses emerged for both the prosecution and defense.

Puckett, 18, confessed to bludgeoning 29-year-old Vitaly Poliakov to death in a house in the upscale East Bay city of Orinda. Puckett says he's heterosexual and didn't mean to kill Poliakov, but was simply defending

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Mural to let Harvey Milk reign over Castro again



Josef Norris

by Mark Mardon

The Castro is about to be livened up with a splash of public art, thanks to former supervisor Wendy Nelder, who now heads the Mayor's Neighborhood Beautification Fund.

Earlier this year, Nelder attended a meeting of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, and told the business proprietors there that city money was available for projects to brighten up neighborhoods. In particular, she thought Harvey Milk's legacy needed memorializing in the Castro, and that a mural would be the thing to do it.

Soon thereafter, Trevor Hailey, the popular longtime proprietor of Cruising the Castro walking tours, and John Downey of PO Plus began working to make Nelder's vision a reality. They sought and obtained funding from Nelder's office, then initiated a contest, inviting muralists to do mockups for a space above the entrance to Milk's old camera shop at 575 Castro.

The winning design (see painting at left) came from Josef Norris, who only recently had completed a mural for the new Starbucks in the Safeway complex at Market and Church, and who had been a muralist in Michigan before moving to the Bay Area.

Hailey and Downey submitted Norris's design proposal to the neighborhood beautification committee, which promptly approved it, as did Mayor Brown.

Norris and his sponsors hope to have the artwork completed in time for next week's San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Parade and celebration.

While the design itself came from Norris, the conception came from Nelder, according to Hailey.

"The composition of the mural was Wendy's idea," said Hailey. "She wanted to have Harvey looking out of his Castro Street camera store onto Castro."

Hailey welcomes the new mural as one of the very few gay monuments in the world.

Best of all, adds Hailey, "it's preserving our history ... and the city's paying!" ▼

Activists fight for organ transplants for PWAs

by Jeff Getty, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Nearly one year has passed since the University of California announced it was moving forward with liver and kidney transplants for HIV+ patients. Unfortunately, since that announcement UC has performed only one HIV+ liver transplant, which the patient's insurance company evidently covered. Although UC officials refuse to discuss the transplant with the public, activists have learned that several qualified HIV+ transplant candidates have been turned away, or left on permanent waiting lists, due to lack of funding. Many believe UC is intentionally dragging its feet.

At the center of the controversy is Alan Hext, an asymptomatic HIV+ patient who suffered liver damage from long term Hepatitis C. Hext has been told he is on the cur-

rent wait list at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Liver Transplant Center run by Dr. Nancy Ascher, but that he cannot receive a new organ because his medical insurance, MediCal, has refused to pay for hospitalization.

Activists have learned that UC and MediCal (California's version of Medicare) have a verbal agreement that UC doctors would never submit a transplant treatment authorization request (TAR) for any HIV+ patient. Earlier this year ACT UP/Golden Gate convinced UC to submit a TAR for Hext only by threatening a demonstration. MediCal had promptly turned down the TAR following a high-level phone call between UCSF's Ascher and the then-MediCal director, Dr. George Wilson. Wilson told activists that Ascher did not want MediCal to pay for the transplant because it was experimental.

Hext, AIDS activists, and members of the



Alan Hext wants his liver.

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Paper trail



Jane Philomen O'Gorman

El Martin points to an amusing item of memorabilia as longtime partner Phyllis Lyon (right) looks on. The occasion was the June 13 opening of the new exhibit "Lyon/Martin Papers: A Collection in Process" at the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California (973 Market Street, 415-777-5455). San Francisco's premier lesbian couple was on hand to reminisce about Bay Area gay and lesbian history from the 1950s to today.

AOFC outraged by anti-family Baptist rhetoric

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco's All Our Families Coalition's (AOFC) Clergy Caucus has come out against the Southern Baptist Convention's "Faith and Message" statement, which condemns gay rights and calls on women to "submit graciously" to their husbands. Southern Baptists are the largest Protestant denomination

in the country; delegates attending the annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah approved the statement last week.

AOFC's Clergy Caucus is an interfaith group working for the basic civil and religious rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families. Cheryl Deane, AOFC's executive director, said that for the last two months, the caucus has been finding ways to educate the public that God loves all marriages and that all marriages are sacred.

The first action of the caucus has been to circulate a petition to clergy in Northern California that reads: "I have officiated or would be willing to officiate at the religious marriage of a same-gender couple." To date, over 100 clergy members have signed the petition, Deane said.

Deane, who is a lesbian mother, blasted the Southern Baptists' faith statement, saying, "These fundamentalist denominational leaders are attempting to demean and destroy any family that is not headed by dominant, heterosexual males. Their willingness to distort Biblical teachings to justify the civil oppression of families like mine is both repulsive and dangerous."

The clergy who have signed the AOFC petition represent a variety of denominations, including Baptist, Episcopalian, Judaism, Lutheran, United Methodist, Congregational United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, Unitarian Universalist, United Church of Christ, and the San Francisco Zen Center.

"All of the clergy who are aware that their names would be sent to the media, and many are aware that they were taking stands that might put them at serious odds with certain elements of their faith tradition," Deane said. "The

willingness of so many clergy from so many religious traditions to support same-gender religious marriage contradicts the fundamentalists' claim that America's families should conform to their narrow vision or be destroyed."

Some Baptists in the city denounced the Southern Baptist Convention's message statement. "The Southern Baptist Convention does not speak for the majority of Baptists on this issue," said the Reverend Doug Donley, pastor of Dolores Street Baptist Church in San Francisco, a former Southern Baptist church. "We are shocked and horrified by the climate of exclusivity in the Southern Baptist Convention. We at our church find the statement passed by the convention extremely anti-family, as well as short-sighted."

According to Deane, an interfaith service in support of the religious and civil freedoms of same-sex couples to marry will be held at Congregation Shaar Zahav's new Dolores Street building on September 15. Other, more civil rights-oriented, actions are also being planned, particularly around the ethical reluctance of many clergy to sign civil marriage licenses, which inherently discriminate against same-gender couples.

AOFC also operates the Freedom to Marry Project, which provides services in the north state that include community organizing, information, and advocacy on behalf of the civil and human rights of queer families. The organization promotes the educational, social, and health-oriented concerns of families and individuals whose human and civil rights are at risk. ▀

For more information about AOFC, call Deane at (415) 681-1960.



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Archbishop urges veto of 'sunshine'

What does he have to hide at Derek Silva?

by Cynthia Laird

Mayor Willie Brown withheld pressure from the Archdiocese of San Francisco last year over the landmark equal benefits ordinance, and gay rights activists are hoping he will do so again over the nonprofit accountability or "sunshine" ordinance approved two weeks ago by the Board of Supervisors. On Friday, June 12 the mayor met with Roman Catholic Archbishop William Levada, who has expressed his desire to see the mayor veto the law.

Catholic Charities, a nonprofit affiliate of the archdiocese, would fall under provisions of the law. Levada objects to the portion of the ordinance that calls for nonprofit agencies that receive a minimum of \$250,000 in city-administered funds to hold at least two open meetings annually. At stake may be \$5 million in social service contracts that Catholic Charities holds with the city.

At his bi-weekly news conference Tuesday, June 16, Brown said he hasn't decided whether or not to sign the ordinance, although he did say he hopes something can be worked out with the archdiocese. The mayor has until Friday, June 19 to act on the ordinance; he could also let it become law without his signature. The mayor did say he doesn't see local government as being "too involved" in the private sector. He also said no other nonprofit has lobbied him as thoroughly as Catholic Charities regarding the ordinance.

The ordinance, spearheaded by Supervisor Tom Ammiano and AIDS activists, calls for open meetings and disclosure of some financial information. It would apply to hundreds of nonprofits



Archbishop William Levada

in San Francisco that receive public funding administered by the city.

While Catholic Charities already holds open board meetings, the archdiocese is apparently afraid people might use the open meetings under the new ordinance to speak out against the Catholic Church.

The mayor is attempting to work something out, but this week, he questioned why abortion clinics are exempt from the law, while Catholic Charities would not be exempt. "I'm told abortion rights advocates would be exempt but critics [of abortion] would not be exempt," said Brown, adding he might ask the board to reconsider the legislation.

Ammiano told the B.A.R. that comparing the two is like comparing apples and oranges. Abortion clinics were exempted be-

cause of bombings, death threats, and other violence that have occurred at clinics across the country, said the supervisor.

Grievances filed

Some people, particularly the residents of Derek Silva, an AIDS housing program operated by Catholic Charities, wonder what the archdiocese is afraid of if the nonprofit accountability law is signed by the mayor. The residents of Derek Silva have filed complaints about the facility for the past year. They charge Catholic Charities has provided inadequate heat at the complex, has elevators that don't work properly, and that administrators retaliate against people who speak out or file complaints.

A petition signed by 30 of the approximately 65 residents was sent to the HIV Health Services Planning Council earlier this year. The residents were filing a formal grievance concerning living conditions at Derek Silva. During the winter months, the program manager of the facility allowed the heat to be turned on only the minimum number of hours required, despite the cold weather. When residents complained, Catholic Charities retaliated by denying them overnight visitors.

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PWA thrown out of home after 21 years

Another owner move-in horror story

by Cynthia Laird

A gay man living with AIDS has been served with a notice to move after living in his Castro area apartment for 21 years, setting the stage for a likely court battle. The eviction follows the failure of Proposition E in the June 2 election, and a San Francisco judge's overturning of the city's owner move-in moratorium, which has led many to fear a rash of evictions, of which this seems to be a classic example.

Gregory Gill, who will turn 49 just days before the July 9 deadline, faces displacement from his apartment at 3967 18th Street, due to an owner move-in eviction at the four-unit building. The new gay owners, Theodore Armstrong and Raymond Dinnocenzo, initially passed themselves off as lovers; at first they said they would need only one unit, which was vacant after escrow closed on the property last month. They have changed their tune, however, and told Gill they are now "just friends" and need two apartments.

The moratorium on owner



Gregory Gill

come up with new language in the law that will meet the court's concerns and still protect tenants. It is unknown whether Gill could be helped by the redrafted law, as it has yet to be completed.

Before serving Gill with eviction papers, Armstrong had filed a notice evicting tenant Elizabeth Gelobter on May 29. Gill told the Bay Area Reporter that when the new owners saw his low \$516 monthly rent, they changed their minds and rescinded Gelobter's eviction, setting up a scenario that could put Gill in the streets.

Steve Collier, an attorney with the Tenderloin Housing Clinic who is representing Gill, told the B.A.R. he hopes he can win a court case. "Gregory was served with a 30-day notice on June 9 that expires on July 9. If he doesn't move, which he won't, the landlord can commence eviction proceedings," said Collier.

Collier called the action taken against Gill by Armstrong and Dinnocenzo "disgusting," but thinks he can prevail in court, in part because of the rescinded Gelobter move-out notice. Reached Monday, June 15, Bierman requested the city attorney

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SFPD investigates alleged anti-gay assault on motorist

by Mike Salinas

Two young men in a speeding car hurled anti-gay insults and an item at a man driving through rush hour traffic near City Hall last week, according to a report filed with San Francisco police. No one was hurt in the allegedly unprovoked assault, although the victim believes the perpetrator's actions could have seriously injured himself and others.

Gary Williams of San Francisco told the Bay Area Reporter he was driving west on Hayes Street with his convertible top down Tuesday, June 9 when he heard a voice over the din of traffic shouting "Faggot!" He said that he turned his head and saw two males in their late teens or early twenties in a station wagon, staring at him.

"The passenger threw a small object at me — at my face — while I was driving," Williams said. "I had

to duck down and put my shoulder up to avoid getting hit in the face, and the thing smacked me on the shoulder instead."

Although Williams retained control of the car he was driving, he said, "If the guy had hit me where he was aiming, it might have caused a wreck."

Williams said when he looked back at the station wagon, the youths were laughing. A motorcyclist who had been traveling behind Williams saw what had happened and caught up to the station wagon. "I don't know what he said, but the guys started laughing again. Not the motorcyclist. He was angry."

Williams told the B.A.R. that he turned onto Van Ness Avenue from Hayes and lost sight of the station wagon and the motorcyclist. He later found a quarter in his car, which he believes may have been the object that hit his shoulder.

"Whatever it was," he said, "it

really stung, and it could have really been dangerous, not just to me, but to the people around me."

Williams reported the crime to the San Francisco Police Department and Community United Against Violence.

"I don't think it was road rage," he told the B.A.R. "I'm not aware of anything that was happening around me that would have set anyone off. I don't know why they singled me out. Maybe they saw me going into a gay bar or something once."

"Whatever their reason, I can't imagine anyone being stupid enough to do that while people are driving in rush hour traffic."

Police are investigating the assault as a possible hate crime. ▼

Anyone who witnessed the incident, including the motorcyclist, should call Inspector Bargioni of the hate crimes unit at (415) 553-1133.

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Leno says domestic partner discounts 'next logical step'

by Cynthia Laird

Calling it the next logical step in protecting civil rights, San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno on Monday, June 15 unveiled legislation calling on businesses to offer a customer's legally registered domestic partner the same special discounts or services offered to customers' spouses. The proposed amendment to

the city's police code was referred to committee by the full board; no date has been scheduled.

The proposal would amend article 33 of the city's police code that already bans discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or place of birth in the goods and services, facilities and privileges, or other advantages a business provides.

Leno to hold campaign kick-off Monday

by Cynthia Laird

Newly appointed Supervisor Mark Leno is gearing up for the November election when he will face voters for the first time, and everyone is invited to attend his campaign kick-off this Monday, June 22 at Club Townsend.

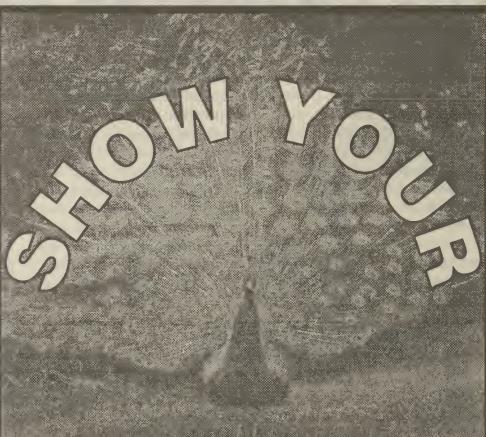
Interested people can also sign up to ride with the openly gay Leno in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28; he's number 69 in the parade lineup, a fact that had him and others laughing at City Hall this week.

"I consider myself a Stonewall baby," Leno said, recalling the birth of the modern gay rights movement. "I graduated from high school in 1969 and came out in 1969."

Leno said that while he will be seeking campaign contributions at the upcoming kickoff, he emphasized that everyone is welcome to attend, even if they can't pony up the maximum of \$500, or lesser amounts.

Leno was appointed to the board by Mayor Willie Brown in March and took office in April. He fills the vacancy created when former supervisor Susan Leal was elected city treasurer. Openly gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano held his re-election kickoff earlier this year. There are five seats on the board of supervisors that will be up for grabs in the November 3 election. ▼

Leno's campaign kick-off will take place from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Club Townsend, 177 Townsend Street at 3rd. To volunteer on the campaign, or to ride with Leno in the parade, call (415) 864-8523.



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"This is a logical progression in protecting the civil rights of persons who provide valuable commerce to our city," Leno said. "It demonstrates that we value customers who have domestic partners just as much as those that have spouses." Six of the supervisors signed on as co-sponsors at Monday's board meeting.

There are more than 4,000 domestic partners registered with the city, including same-sex and opposite-sex couples. Leno's proposal would extend to both types of domestic partners.

At an afternoon news conference on Monday, Leno cited a couple of examples: 24 Hour Fitness Center and the California State Automobile Association (AAA) both offer discounts to spouses and registered domestic partners.

A more critical situation, Leno said, involves single occupancy, or residential hotels that generally cater to the poor. Leno's proposal would allow registered domestic partners to share living space, which is not the case at most of them now.

The amendment would mean that businesses that offer a special discount, rate, price break, or other perk to a customer's spouse would

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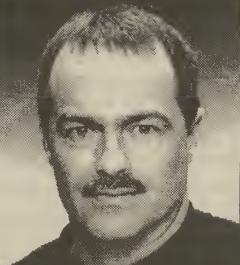
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Moses supposes

The Biblical parodies — er, *parables* — are thicker than usual this week, what with Moses on a rampage and Lott denouncing Sodom.

It started Sunday, when *Meet the Press* played a disturbing videotape of Charlton Heston (the creaky old actor who once played Moses and then found it impossible to shed the character once the cameras stopped rolling) addressing the National Rifle Association. Heston has long been a Hollywood embarrassment — the equivalent of the elderly incontinent uncle who ruins family reunions by going into his theory about why Hitler was "a genius" — but now that NRA members have chosen him for their leader, it's worth looking at his beliefs in depth. And those beliefs, according to the speech he gave to people who are connected only by their armaments, come dangerously close to calling for an open war on people who don't look like him:

"Mainstream America is depending on you, counting on you, to draw your sword and fight for them," he said to all those people who lobby for the right to have their "swords" automatically loaded with hollow-point bullets. "These people have precious little time or resources to battle misguided, Cinderella attitudes — the fringe propaganda of the homosexual coalition, the feminists who preach that it's a divine duty for women to hate men, blacks who raise a militant fist with one hand, while they seek preference with the other."

The day after Heston's xenophobia aired, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott told the anchor of a television show that he believed homosexuality was both a sin and a disease ("like kleptomania").

Although Lott has clearly begun to take his surname too seriously — making us somewhat concerned about the future safety of *Lott's wife* — his outburst does (or could) provide an opportunity for the religions of the world to start really discussing the supposed prescriptions against homosexuality, both in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah and in Leviticus (and, moreover, to speak generally about the concept that God Is Love, or at least isn't naked Hatred). Now it remains to be seen how many churches rise to the occasion.

There are spiritual leaders who must be able to plainly articulate that Leviticus is just as condemnatory toward *trave* food (that's

"non-Kosher" in plain parlance) as it is toward "men lying with men." In other words, if Lott is correct and we are always a sin, so is tonight's special at Red Lobster; so is a cheeseburger; and so are a lot of other things that most people do not consider violating the Iron Will of God.

Lott's supporters include House Majority Leader Dick Armey, the legislator from Texas who called Barney Frank "Barney Fag" during a debate on the floor of the House. "I abide by the Bible," Armey told reporters, adding that he and his wife had read relevant sections in the Bible Tuesday morning and "I do not quarrel with the Bible on this subject." The key being "*on this subject*." We've yet to see Armey picketing a Carl's Jr. because the chain was peddling sinful cheeseburgers to an unsuspecting population, and we're not likely to; there's no attraction in warning people against *trave*, because it doesn't rack up points with prospective donors — in fact, it pisses off many of them. Homosexuality, although no different from a ham sandwich according to the Bible, is a much more prof-

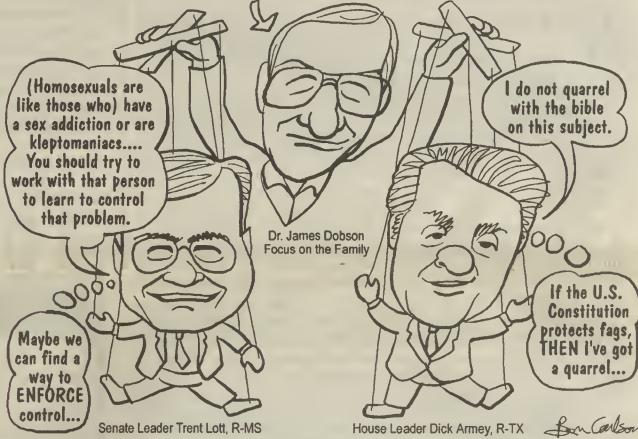
itable topic for a candidate to take up.

Or, at least, it was. But that may be getting less true every day. We have to point out some encouraging signs: the GOP candidates who goose-stepped to the right all through their Iowa debuts left the audience very-much-less-than-impressed, as Wayne Friday reports on page 9; and the most recent survey about Americans' views on homosexuality shows that the anti-gay fervor has cooled considerably, since its height two years ago, as Liz Highleyman reports on page 22.

Perhaps the people of this country are turning away from what most current theologians see clearly as the real sin of Sodom: the sin of intolerant xenophobia; of demanding that all strangers must be "worthy" and "fit in" with everyone else. That sin, it would seem, would be much more likely than homosexuality to drive a loving God into a rage that would end in the destruction of a city. Maybe Americans are wising up and turning away from the sin. Now it's time for "Moses and company" to get the message. ▼

Editorial

DAILY RADIO SHOW AIRS ON 2,900 U.S. STATIONS,
 THREATENS TO LEAVE GOP IF IT DOESN'T CHANGE ITS LIBERAL WAYS



Letter to someone I believed in

by Virg Parks

Dear President Clinton:
 I'm writing this because it's the only appropriate way for me to grieve the death of fellow activist Steve Michael. I could not afford the trek across country for Steve's funeral and over the last 12 years, I've attended so many that I vowed "never again" (even when the funeral is political). Yet, I believe that as humans we *need* to acknowledge the death of someone we care about. We need some sense of closure, even when we know the pain will never leave us. I've not yet mourned the loss of Steve Michael, not so much as a candle lit in his memory. The cover photo of this week's *Bay Area Reporter* (a SF gay newspaper) showed Steve cold and still in his coffin, and somehow made his death real in a way that email and phone messages had not. In my last conversation with Steve's partner Wayne, he told me that articulating our grief to you is what Steve would want. Not doing so would be the greatest insult to his life and death. I knew Steve mostly as an activist — and must admit, I didn't always like him. But I respected him. That's more than I can say for you right now.

However, once upon a time I believed. After two presidents who obviously didn't give a damn about AIDS, finally here was a candidate who claimed to care and actually had a chance at being elected. Finally, here was a presidential nominee that I could vote for instead of simply voting against the greater evil. I remember the night you were elected, probably as vividly as you do. I was

attending an AIDS Clinical Trials Group meeting in DC (after absented voting at home, of course). The hotel hosting the meeting was also the site of several Democratic Party parties. That night was so surreal. While virtually everyone else in the hotel was celebrating, AIDS researchers and activists alike were still working away. After 10 hours of meetings, my day finally ended and all I wanted was a drink and bed. Meetings would begin again at 8:30 the next morning. Needless to say, the hotel was packed and I could barely get to the elevators, much less a bar! Fortunately, I ran into a friend who told me about an impromptu activist election night gathering. Almost all of the "community" representatives attending the meeting were crammed into that room — sitting on beds, floor, nightstands — laughing, celebrating, watching election results. My friend Andy Zysman was ecstatic. He was the one who dragged me kicking and screaming into believing that perhaps (just maybe) a politician might provide us some real hope. All the time though, I wanted to believe. ... I really did.

Another friend, Brenda Lein of Project Inform, wasn't so easily convinced, though. She never believed. When you said the word "AIDS" within the first 15 seconds of your acceptance speech, the room exploded. People were laughing, hugging, clapping. Andy was beside himself, convinced that now we'd finally take some real steps forward. I leaned over to Brenda and asked, "So now do you believe?" She did not. I hate when

she's right.

Andy's dead now. So are several others who were in Mark's room that night. Even though they had much greater access to information than the average PWA, they still died. Even though they fought like mad, they still died. Even though they believed in you, they still died. If you ever really cared, you must be the most depressed, guilt ridden, miserable person in this country. You made so many promises and broke most of them — from immigration and travel restrictions to unethical

testing amendments attached to our CARE Act.

You failed to save lives and protect people that you could have and

promised us that you would. Now, you're doing it again by caving in to the "Flat Earth Society" called Congress. Do you actually believe your own rhetoric, that our government can support needle exchange in principle, yet refuse to spend any money implementing the concept and thereby preventing needless suffering?

I hope that you never truly "feel my pain" — that of cumulative death, losing so many friends and acquaintances that you stop counting. I hope that nobody ever would feel my pain. At the annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial, when participants are asked to recall the names of those they've known before and lost, my list goes on and on and on. I'm always certain there are some I've forgotten, and in silence beg their forgiveness. I wonder now if any of us can ever forgive you. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

'Grisly' bared

In "Sex change surgeon stumps police" (B.A.R. 6/4/98) sex change surgery was referred to as grisly. While it certainly does appear that way to nontranssexuals, it is viewed much more favorably by transsexuals, despite practitioners such as Dr. Brown.

Gail Sondegaard
San Francisco

[Editor's note: We didn't mean to suggest that sex change surgery is grisly; the author was specifically referring to the practice of using a patient's colon to construct a vagina. We have since learned that the procedure, while hardly common, is more widespread than we believed. We apologize unreservedly to Ms. Sondegaard and to anyone else who thought the comment was offensive.]

Less a salvation than an army

The Salvation Army's decision to cut back services to San Francisco's needy to protest the city's domestic partnership policy is nothing less than reprehensible. Clearly, the organization is more concerned with playing politics, than helping the hungry and homeless. I may not be a Christian, but I know that putting love before the law is the cornerstone of your religious heritage.

It's unfortunate that the Salvation Army has chosen a sanctimonious path over a compassionate one. I'll surely look elsewhere to make donations in the future, and encourage others to do the same.

Michael Jones
San Francisco

Instant supe

On January 8, 1998, my best friend Gary Behrens died needlessly of a heart attack at 43. Gary's death taught me that life is too short not to do what you love; that you can't take anything with you; and it is OK for a man to cry. Three gifts. On my 48th birthday, I was arrested by seven San Francisco police officers for altering the seductive message of a Lucky Strike billboard. I was very polite to them, and was released with a misdemeanor citation. While I was handcuffed, I decided to run for Supervisor, because something was wrong when I get arrested for writing the truth on a billboard, while the billboard owners ignore a new state law, and the tobacco companies still get to advertise a drug that contributes to the death of 64,000 Californians each year. I have authored an initiative for the November ballot called the Outdoor Advertising Control Act of 1998. I would like your support in passing this initiative and getting elected Supervisor. I need to get 10,500 valid signatures from registered voters in San Francisco. I need to submit these signatures by Monday July 6, 1998 to qualify for the November ballot. I am looking for 60 volunteers to collect 200 signatures each. If you or anyone that you know would like to see some control placed on billboards, please call me. I need volunteers Saturday and Sunday June 20 & 21, 27 & 28 (the weekend of the Gay Parade) and July 4 & 5. I have booked a double booth for the two-day Parade Celebration at Civic Center, will be marching in the Parade, and hope to get 6,000 signatures that weekend. I believe that if we succeed in qualifying this initiative for the November ballot that my chances of getting elected Supervisor will be greatly increased.

My first act as supervisor will be to investigate why Gary was not taken to S.F. General Hospital, four blocks from his house, the day of his death. I will then author legislation that will never again allow a San Francisco resident to be diverted from a city hospital when their life is in such jeopardy.

I will give 90% of my possessions to charity on June 15 and dedicate the remainder of my life to the service of humanity. When I die, I will have no house or car to leave to relatives or friends, but I will have left a legacy of service to San Francisco, California, and the Earth.

If you are connected to the Internet, you can visit my web site www.SFsupervisor.com. It will be live the first week in June. I have published eight white papers on issues that are important to me. I would like your input on these issues.

I also inherited Gary's pickup truck and will have the license plate SF Super.

Four ways you can help me:

- Volunteer to gather 200 signatures in your neighborhood, or on one of the three weekends before July 6, 1998. I need 60 volunteers to get 12,000 signatures.

- Make a cash contribution to my campaign or the billboard campaign.

- Talk to your friends and work associates to find those who dislike billboards, and ask to volunteer to collect signatures and/or contribute to the campaign.

- March with me in the parade, Sunday June 28, 1998 at 11 am.

Jim Reid
San Francisco

Thanks all around

I want to thank ACT UP/San Francisco for letting us know that Dan Glazer, owner of the Hot Cookie, conceived the "Create Change" posters that adorn shop windows in the Castro. We strongly support Mr. Glazer's actions, and have now started frequenting his business to show our support for his actions. We encourage other merchants to work with Mr. Glazer to publicize ways in which citizens can provide real help to the homeless in this neighborhood. Thank you, Mr. Glazer, for acting in a responsible manner to help the homeless and to help clean up the Castro.

Brian Geiger
San Francisco

The decline and fall of the Castro

This is in response to the letter by Michael Bellfontaine of ACT UP/San Francisco, in the B.A.R. of June 4, 1998: "Protesters confront Castro merchant on panhandling issue." With all respect to ACT UP/San Francisco, an organization I supported



with a few contributions, I differ with him on handing out the money of its supporters to the homeless in the Castro, and confronting the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC).

Donors such as myself make contributions to ACT UP/San Francisco to further accelerate the cure for AIDS, not for handouts to panhandlers, which we are adequately capable of doing ourselves. If we are not careful panhandlers are likely to drive out one of the economic engines of Castro: gay guys cruising - who, by the way, support Castro-based business. As a gay community, we need to support each other, however, we should not fall into the trap of providing support to the homeless, which the city authorities blithely ignore. If people find other neighborhoods to take their business to, merchants will suffer, potentially leading to the decline of the Castro.

Dr. Massimo A. Saluzzo
San Francisco

Personal attacks

I find myself as confused as I am dismayed by the attack on Reverend Jim Mitulski that appeared in the Politics column June 11. Is it now considered an insult for a clergyperson to be compared to Reverend Cecil Williams? Most religious people I know admire Williams. Is it supposed to be a problem that Reverend Mitulski is "happy" when hungry and homeless people are being fed? What's he supposed to be? Unhappy? If I read my Bible correctly, taking care of the hungry is a spiritual act.

I think that if some people don't want to give change to street panhandlers because they fear it will go to drugs, then the MCC food program is a very worthy alternative. I urge such people to walk over to the Church and get involved in solving the problem rather than stigmatizing the victims.

Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Word up

Re: In Defense of Queer, Jesse Heiwa's letter [Mailstrom, June 11] where he objects to being discouraged from using the term "queer," which he states was "reclaimed by our communities in the early '90s."

Well, to recall something seems to suggest that something was inherently yours and somehow you lost it. I have been what has been called a "practicing homosexual" (practice makes perfect - maybe someday) for about 50 years and that despised term certainly never belonged to me, though it was a word that others tried to label me with.

I remember in school being poked and pushed, with that word being muttered at me, usually followed by a snicker. I remember at 17, coming home late from a party and being surrounded by five big guys who knocked me to the ground and proceeded to punch and kick me, the whole time calling me a "God damn queer," "Queer bastard," "Fuckin' queer" - you get the picture. Not once during this session of pain and humiliation did I think, "Damn, it's bad enough that they beat me, but they've stolen my word."

Heiwa talks about the variations within the community and suggests that the word "gay" is too limiting (I always thought it was too frivolous to describe most of my life) and therefore we should amass these diversities under one word and that word should be queer. I wonder if he ever looked up the word in a thesaurus. The paperback edition lists 45 definitions under "queer" as an adjective, most of them negative. It has two listed as a noun: "derogatory term for a homosexual," and "counterfeit." How acceptable is that?

I just can't imagine Harvey Milk proclaiming himself a queer because he knew the word for what it is - a hate word. And to paraphrase another homosexual icon: "A hate word is a hate word, is a hate word."

Karl Cassini
San Francisco

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Hard Copy addresses Pat Robertson's anti-gay rhetoric

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media
resource center manager

On June 10, *Hard Copy*'s lead story focused on comments made by religious political extremist Pat Robertson on the June 8 episode of his evangelical television show, *The 700 Club*. Responding to pride-related activities in Orlando, Florida, including the unofficial Gay Days at Disney World, Robertson said: "I would warn Orlando that you're right in the way of some serious hurricanes, and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you." He continued, "This is not a message of hate; this is a message of redemption. But a condition like this will bring about the destruction of your nation. It'll bring about terrorist bombs; it'll bring earthquakes, tornadoes and possibly a meteor." In their daily "Top Copy" segment, *Hard Copy* criticized the "Almighty," self-proclaimed spokesperson Pat Robertson, beginning the piece by saying that "Pat Robertson is issuing some outrageous warnings about God's wrath against gays tonight. Some say the TV evangelist is taking homophobia to new heights," and ending by noting that: "The Christian Crusader has made a fortune spreading the word of God. Let's see now, how did it go? On the eighth day, Preacher Pat created intolerance." Included in *Hard Copy*'s piece was a snippet of an interview conducted with GLAAD Director of Communications Jennifer Einhorn, in which she urged Robertson to reevaluate the tone and direction of his remarks, which demonstrate precisely how to build a climate of intolerance.

In September of last year, GLAAD met with the producers of *Hard Copy* to voice its concerns with the tone of the show's reporting on lesbian- and gay-themed issues [see GLAADAlerts 07.18.97 and 08.29.97]. Since then, *Hard Copy* ran two much-improved pieces [see GLAADAlert 09.26.97] in addition to this recent and prominently featured segment, which clearly illustrates the nature of Robertson's destructive rhetoric. GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry said, "GLAAD is proud of the work we've done with *Hard Copy*, and we thank them for their increasing sensitivity to the issues which face our community."

Please thank the producers of *Hard Copy* for their prompt and prominent attention to this matter, and for bringing to light the true nature of Robertson's statements.

Contact: Lisa Gregorish, Executive Producer, *Hard Copy*, 5555 Melrose Ave. MAE W. Bldg., LA, CA 90038, fax: 213.862.1940, e-mail: comments@hardcopytv.com

Detour features Heche in depth

A cover story on actress Anne Heche in the June/July issue of *De-*

tour directly addresses the increasing media hype surrounding an openly gay actress playing a heterosexual romantic lead in *Six Days, Seven Nights*. Dale Brasel's piece, entitled "Heche Crimes," begins with Heche venting her frustration with the responses received from both gay and straight individuals after coming out last year under the glare of the media spotlight. "Everyone feared the movie wasn't going to do well because

I'm gay. Everybody everybody in the industry hated me and wouldn't come near me — except basically for [Six Days co-star] Harrison Ford and [director] Ivan Reitman, who were brilliant," Heche tells writer Dale Brasel. Brasel, who last interviewed Heche nine days before she met DeGeneres, writes of the couple's genuine affection for one another, saying: "If this is a performance, they both deserve Oscars." Brasel also points out that soon after completing *Six Days*, Heche "fully expected to be benched from acting until the public expressed its approval or disapproval of her life in the form of box-office receipts. Surprisingly, an offer came rather quickly for *Force Majeure*, opposite Vince Vaughn."

While the media has continued to frame Heche's performance as a litmus test for audience acceptance of openly lesbian and gay movie stars in straight roles, GLAAD anticipates that audiences will judge the movie based on its merits.

Please thank *Detour* for doing a good job of cutting through the hype.

Contact: Juan Morales, Editor, *Detour*, 6855 Santa Monica Blvd. #400, LA, CA 90038-3959, fax: 212.556.3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending e-mails) ▼

New York Times explores second generation gay kids

The June 7 *New York Times* featured an article by David Kirby, entitled "The Second Generation," exploring families that include two generations of lesbians or gay men. While on the surface it may seem that coming out to a lesbian or gay parent

would pose no problem, Kirby's interviews provide varied responses from lesbian and gay youth and their gay parents. One lesbian mother tells him that her son's coming out "kind of scared me because ... I don't want my kids to have to go through all the pain," while another says, "Whatever they turned out [to be] would've been fine with us: both gay, both straight or any combination." Kirby adds that while "Sometimes [lesbian and gay parents] are swept into the political and scientific debate over whether homosexuals are born or made, and whether parents influence their children's sexual orientation," all of the lesbian and gay children in the article agree that their parents' sexual orientation did not influence their own. As an example, Kirby points to the case of Maria De La O, who realized she was bisexual even before her mother had come out. Jamie Egan, a second generation gay person notes, "To say gay people make people gay is a ridiculous cliché." Still, Kirby also takes into account the fears of a number of other lesbians and gay men who worry that being outspoken about a lesbian or gay second generation person will "propagate stereotypes [of] gay people recruiting kids."

Kirby explores the issues that both first and second generations of lesbians and gay men face in a particularly insightful and thoughtful manner.

Please thank *Detour* for doing a good job of cutting through the hype.

Contact: Juan Morales, Editor, *Detour*, 6855 Santa Monica Blvd. #400, LA, CA 90038-3959, fax: 212.556.3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending e-mails) ▼

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Empress and 'Empress' author to read at A Different Light Monday

Poet and author Michael Gorman will be at A Different Light bookstore in the Castro this Monday, June 22 at 7 p.m.

Gorman is a contributor to the *Bay Area Reporter*, and the author of critically acclaimed gay holocaust and breast cancer poems. He will be in San Francisco to promote his book *The Empress Is A Man*, which chronicles the life of José Sarria, also known as "The Widow Norton."

Those with a passion for gay history will hear all about The Black Cat; the first gay man to run for office; serenading the police with "God Bless Those Nellie Queens"; and more — not only from Gorman, but from the man who lived it. Sarria will attend the reading and book signing. ▼

— M.R. Richards

Black eye for the Hawkeyes

by Wayne Friday

If the national Republican Party thinks that the current scandals swirling around President Bill Clinton make their regaining the White House in 2000 a sure thing, they have only to examine last weekend's Iowa Republican soiree to get an idea as to the problems they face in such a bid. Iowa, traditionally one of the very first battlegrounds of any presidential run for the roses, threw a party confab for 2,000 that was designed to showcase nearly a dozen prospective Republican presidential hopefuls and present the GOP's "ideas and visions" for the next millennium.

However, Democratic leaders watching the gathering in Cedar Rapids had to be sporting huge Cheshire grins as they saw the so-called "gala" degenerate into an intraparty contest to show who could be the most conservative suck-up possible. Big-name potential candidates like Speaker Newt Gingrich, Governor George W. Bush and Senator John McCain wisely steered clear of the debacle. Even so, no less than a dozen presidential wannabes

(Representative John Kasich, Family Research Council's Gary Bauer, publisher Steve Forbes, African-American radio talk show host Alan Keyes, Senator John Ashcroft, former Governor Lamar Alexander, Senator Bob Smith, Representative Bob Barr, Marilyn Quayle (filling in for hubby), Governor Mark Racicot, etc.) appeared in an attempt to "out-right" the other.

First up was Bauer, the notoriously homophobic president of the Family Research Council, who galvanized the assembled Hawkeyes by appearing with Green Bay Packers star Reggie White. Mr. White, you may recall, recently informed the Wisconsin State Assembly that blacks (he's African-American) "like to sing and dance" and "whites know how to tap into money." He referred to homosexuality as "one of the biggest sins" of the Bible. (No word on whether or not he believes wives should submit themselves graciously to their husbands.)

Bauer, who almost reaches White's shoulder, stood on stage next to this arbiter of morals and proclaimed, "I stood with Reggie White. No to same-sex marriage! No to saying that way of life is acceptable!" White simply reiterated that "I said what I meant, and I meant what I said," even though most Wisconsin legislators swore they had no idea what he was foaming at the mouth about.

Not to be outdone, Forbes, son of the late Malcolm Forbes — a man reportedly devoted to motorcycles and leather and the men who go with them — improved his conservative credentials by palling around with that illustrious homophobe, the Reverend Lou Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition. Forbes made sure that they'll never stick him with that "moderate" label again.

Each of the GOP hopefuls



Rick Gerhardt
Castro Cheesery Owner Ken Khoury (right) speaks with Supervisors Leslie Katz and Gavin Newsom during their June 11 "walkabout" on Castro Street. Castro merchants and residents were concerned about the urban ills of the '90s: homelessness, panhandling, trash and chain stores.

were given 11 minutes on center stage to make their pitch. One after the other, they went to great lengths to demonstrate that they were really even more conservative, more moral, than the previous speaker. Their higher ground was real deal.

But how did all this play with the actual attendees? Many ventured the opinion that it was all perhaps a trifle over the top. "It's a little bit scary," Ron Rasmussen told the Associated Press. The small business owner said he would have preferred the speakers stuck

to issues like "states rights, citizens rights, and getting taxes reduced." But you can bet your bottom dollar that others, like Vice President Al Gore, for instance, were tickled pink with the overheated, hateful rhetoric spewed by the GOP in the Midwest this past weekend. They can only look good by comparison.

The Jer is there

Oakland's mayor-elect Jerry Brown, wildly popular with the citizens of his new home town, has truly re-emerged as a bona fide national media star. Busy shedding his Governor Moonbeam image, the articulate Brown has been guesting on national TV news shows by the dozen, putting our East Bay neighbor on the map big time. In fact, his media-savvy performances have clearly overshadowed the antics of that other Bay Area Brown: Willie.

Gertrude Stein's famous line reputedly about Oakland: "There's no there there" may still hold true, but there's now a *Jer* there and everyone has taken note. Jerry Brown, a native San Franciscan who once adopted LA as his home town, moved back to our city for a few years, but then relocated to Oakland four years ago "because the rent was cheap."

The millionaire Brown has stated that "Oakland is small enough for the people to take control, but big enough to make a difference. On my mind is putting cities back on the national agenda." Hmm, he sounds like a man interested in politics *beyond* the confines of Oaktown to me!

President Clinton reportedly raised \$2 million for Senator Barbara Boxer and the Democrats during stops here and in LA this past weekend. Among the Hollywood luminaries attending a reception for Boxer in Beverly Hills were Barbra Streisand, James Brolin, Rod McKuen, Sally Field, Tina Sinatra, Quincy

Jones, Sidney Poitier, David Geffen, and Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Meanwhile, Boxer's opponent, GOP state Treasurer Matt Fong, is reportedly broke. He's said to be looking to the national party in D.C. for help. Maybe NRA Prez Chuck Heston (with Tony Danza and Bruce Willis and Demi Moore) will do a Fong fundraiser soon!

Former Vice President Dan Quayle, now a full-fledged GOP presidential candidate, has boldly predicted that "any Republican can beat Bill Clinton in 2000." Well, Danny is right there, considering that Clinton can't even *run* in 2000. As for his own chances, Quayle told one audience recently that "if I don't win the presidency in 2000, I'll run and win four years later in 2000." (And how do you spell "potato," Dan?)

The Log Cabin Republicans of Texas held a rally June 13 outside the state GOP convention in Fort Worth to protest the party's decision to deny their group an information booth inside. Wake up and smell the coffee, guys!

Meanwhile, those in the know are crowding that the 2000 National GOP Convention is all set for New York City, thanks to the efforts of popular Republican Mayor Rudy Giuliani of that burg.

Local gay activist/attorney Victor Marquez, a recent winner of a seat on the County Demo Committee, is said to be ready to announce for the Board of Supes.

Highly placed political operatives in the Gray Davis for Governor camp are anxious to get their candidate to sit down and smoke the peace pipe with — you guessed it — Dianne Feinstein. The senator is said to still be highly pissed at Davis for those infamous Leona Helmsley TV ads that he pounded her with in 1992. Feinstein's support is seen as a must for a Davis victory; however, DiFi, though a party loyalist, is not one to forgive and forget so easily. Even so, she certainly doesn't want Dan Lungren to become our next governor. Perhaps more importantly, many think that Feinstein is a likely VP choice for Al Gore on a national ticket in two years, and a Democratic governor, especially one she helped elect, in the nation's most populous state is crucial to the duo's chances of setting up residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Friends and supporters of new Supervisor Mark Leno are holding a campaign kick-off fundraiser for the smart, likable politico on Monday, June 22, 5:30-8 p.m., at Club Townsend, 177 Townsend at Third. Donations of \$50 and up are requested. Call 864-8523 for more information. ▼

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Democrazy

by Beth Elliott

Vote Early and Often Dept.: So, was the open primary good for you, too? I took it rather literally, spreading votes across spectrum by voting for candidates' positions, not their party affiliations. Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Reform, Green... I voted for candidates of every party, but Natural Law and American Independent. I wish we could have had a runoff instead of an automatic result of Mayor Moonbeam, but such is life; I'll just hope Jerry Brown does a good job. Does Jerry really know Oakland? Talk of crafts-based alternatives to current waterfront uses raises my doubts; the Port of Oakland is a major employer in a city that needs even more jobs.

Meanwhile, I nearly got whiplash watching some folks do fast 180s on the concept of the will of the people, as expressed at the ballot box. First, people demanded the government honor the democratic verdict in favor of medical marijuana. Then, some of the same people set up a cry demanding that schools ignore the democratic verdict in favor of supplanting bilingual education with English immersion. Somehow, I think a lot of the people who constantly talk about democracy don't really believe in it. I think to them, democracy means getting their way; they assume they alone represent "the people," and are flabbergasted when the people vote contrary to their slogans.

One cause of this seems to be people who idealize California as a liberal paradise, coming to believe they somehow have a proprietary interest in California; they get so shocked when Californians think independently. I heard someone say, "If Dan Lungren gets elected governor, California's over!" I'm not thrilled by the prospect of a Governor Lungren myself. But, as a Californian, I find the idea that California would be "over" in such an event to be ludicrous. Even as governor, Dan Lungren would be powerless to stop people from living the "alternative" lifestyles for which California is notable. He might be able to end people having their alternative lifestyles subsidized with other people's tax money; that would be a tragedy for professional entitlement queens, but good for the rest of us. Those of us who created alternative lifestyles in California did so

without government assistance, and we can do it again.

As a matter of fact, I can't help but think that all these calls for government support lifestyles and cultures could backfire in a very interesting way. I can totally imagine, within the next, say, 15 years or so, serious calls for Northern Californian secession from the Union. Not from liberals and the multiculturalism crowd, oh no — these calls would come from the Californians who have become tired of being asked to finance the social re-engineering of their own community and culture. The ones some people don't realize they're insulting when they say it's the variegated population of newcomers that's made California interesting.

When you think about it, what would the neo-Californios have to lose? Certainly not its difference from mainstream America. Life in California has been different from life back east from the first influx of Iron Age people.

I caught some folks debating recently whether California is part of the U.S. or part of Mexico, and was tempted to point out it's never really been either. The missions were Spanish, and didn't get along with Mexican authorities. Little love was lost between the Mexican government (so far away by horseback or ship) and the Spanish Dons, who thought of themselves not as "Mexicanos" but as "Californios." Californio

culture was different from Mexican culture; it can be argued that it was the hybrid culture that emerged from the mixing of native, Spanish, Yankee, and Mediterranean that made California attractive for more than just climate.

Even the Gold Rush, for all its excesses, was a critical positive event in California culture. Culture is comprised of more than arts, customs, and spirituality; it also includes trade and commerce styles, as well as orientation toward work and productivity in general. The people who settled the territory and state of California did not move here and take jobs; they created businesses and jobs. As a matter of fact, with so many miners dying in the gold

fields, the California culture was one in which women were more often entrepreneurs than housewives (unlike back east or in other countries). Whether cooking, teaching, running boarding houses, taking in laundry, or doing sex or entertainment work, women were businesswomen ... and this set expectations for women's options that have lasted to this day.

What people would lose would be the politically correct crowd, so fearful that California will be "over" if the region doesn't have a government based on income redistribution and subsidizing "cultures" that take all the advances of Western Civilization for granted, while branding it as evil. This is disincentive?

So go ahead and vow to ignore the voters in the name of universal government subsidy. Wake that sleeping giant. And please, Br'er Transplant, whatever you do, don't throw me in that independent Alta California patch! ▀

Sapphistication



PWA eviction

◀ page 4

Gelobter confirmed that her eviction notice has been canceled by Armstrong.

Under owner move-in regulations, Armstrong, who signed the notice, "seeks in good faith..." to occupy Gill's unit "as the principal residence." Records from the San Francisco Assessor's Office show that Armstrong owns another piece of property, and that the tax bill is currently sent to an address on 21st Street.

"They saw my [rent] check was half of another tenant's," said Gill. "They know I get \$650 per month and have \$40 a month to live on after rent, electricity, and the phone bills are paid."

Former owner feels terrible

Gill, who said he knows of similar evictions happening to at least two others, sobbed as he said a lifetime of memories are stored at 3967 18th Street, apartment 4. "I make less than \$6,000 a year. I've had neuropathy, blindness, everything. I've had tuberculosis twice. I have struggled. I've buried 200 friends," Gill said.

His story starts back in January 1977 when Gill moved into the building. Back then, the owners were Louis Sranzes and Daniel Schick. Over the years, Gill helped out around the building, and in the process befriended the own-

ers. Sranzes died in December 1996, but it wasn't until earlier this year that Schick sold the building.

"He [Schick] says he's sorry. He said his lover Lou is turning over in his grave," Gill said. "I've only had two lovers and they both died here."

Gill has been involved in the Castro for decades and was the first black bartender at the Elephant Walk; more recently he worked as a personal trainer. "My whole life is in the Castro," he said.

Schick told the B.A.R. that he feels terrible about what's happening to Gill and said that Sranzes "made sort of a covenant with Gill that he would be protected."

Gill is a terribly good tenant. He has the second most desirable apartment in the building. He decorated his place," said Schick.

According to Schick, his real estate agent was led to believe that Armstrong and Dinnencenzo were a couple. "That's what I was told. Now, I understand they're splitting up," said Schick. "I had to sell the building. I thought because of his HIV status, he [Gill] would be okay. They paid a lot of money for it, I sold it for \$560,000. They knew what the rents were and I thought they'd put Gill under their wing. I just have faith in common people. They are going to have to live with themselves."

Armstrong did not return repeated calls from the B.A.R. ▀

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112 years ago this week:

The president and the Ihamana

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: We'wha, a Zuni "berdache," calls on President Grover Cleveland in Washington, June 23, 1886.

Beginning in the early 16th century, the Spanish and French explorers who arrived in North America in search of land and wealth came into contact with many Native American societies that had existed for thousands of years. Among those whom the explorers encountered were transgendered "men-women" they called "berdaches," a French term meaning "kept boys" or male prostitutes.

Approximately 130 Native American tribes included some form of berdache, and each tribal

language had a specific word for biological men who cross-dressed, lived as women, and often partnered with men. The Sioux, for example, called such individuals *wintkes*, while the Chippewa knew them as *agokwas*. Among the Zunis, the term used was *Ihamana*. Most berdaches were found among tribes living west of the Mississippi River, though they were also present among Northeastern and Southern tribes.

Epitomizing the European view of berdaches, one Spanish explorer described them as "impotent, effeminate men ... [who] go about dressed as women, and do women's tasks." But within Native cultures, berdaches played a much more

important role, often performing sacred, shamanic functions and occupying places of honor within the various tribes. Among the Navaho, for example, berdaches had special ceremonial duties, such as preparing the food for sacred gatherings. The Sioux *wintkes* chose sacred names for the tribe's male children. "If a *wintke* [was] in a family," one Sioux told ethnographer Walter Williams, "that family would feel fortunate." Some tribes revered the berdaches as healers, while others sought their advice as matchmakers. Berdaches might also be story-tellers, the keepers of tribal lore.

Individuals tended to become berdaches, instead of being born into the role. They were not necessarily slight or "feminine" in appearance, but were often strong and powerfully built, capable of assuming the most rigorous of women's chores. Usually, boys of about 10 were allowed to choose berdache status, if they found themselves inclined toward women's tasks, like weaving and cooking. Their childhood choice, it seems, was made for life. "On reaching puberty, their decision is final," wrote anthropologist Mathilda Coxe Stevenson in her 1896 study of the Zunis.

Tribal members referred to berdaches as "she," which led

many of the white Americans who met them to believe they were either biological women or hermaphrodites. Stevenson hosted the visit of We'wha, a Zuni Ihama, to Washington during a six-month period in 1886, and We'wha was universally treated as a woman. One reporter, however, cast some doubt on the Zuni's gender. We'wha, the *Evening Star* said, was no Pocahontas or Minnehaha, but an individual whose "features, ... especially her mouth, are rather large; her figure and carriage rather masculine." De-

havior and were expected as adults to pair off with other women. The female berdache most often written about was Qanqon, a member of the Kutenai tribe, who lived in the very early 1800s. Accompanied by her wife, Qanqon worked as a guide and interpreter in the Pacific Northwest, until falling victim to a Blackfoot attack in 1837. In the mid-19th century, Sahaykwisa, another female berdache (*hwame*) from the Mohave tribe, likewise had several female partners, whom she supported by hunting,

"If a *wintke* [was] in a family," one Sioux told ethnographer Walter Williams, "that family would feel fortunate."

spite the disappointment some felt that the Ihama wasn't a dainty Indian princess, We'wha was the hit of the capital. The Zuni man-woman gave demonstrations of tribal weaving at the Smithsonian and charmed both President Grover Cleveland and Speaker of the House John G. Carlisle when introduced to them.

But were the berdaches gay? At least in sexual behavior, they seemed to be. Early European explorers wrote with horror of the "lewdness and unnatural acts" of the berdaches. As Mathilda Coxe Stevenson somewhat cryptically wrote, "There is a side to the lives of these men which must remain untold." She further noted that "they never marry women, and it is understood that they seldom have any relations with them." In fact, berdaches were almost always the sexual partners of non-berdache men. In this way, they seem like the forerunners of the "fairies" of early 20th-century American cultures, who coupled with traditionally masculine, "non-fairy" men.

In about 30 tribes, there were also female berdaches, who dressed as men and acted as hunters and warriors. They, too, exhibited same-gender sexual be-

farming, and occasionally prostituting herself to white men. Mohave legend has it that after being brutally raped by one woman's jealous husband, Sahaykwisa stopped courting women.

Just as Europeans brought disease and alcoholism to Native American tribes, they also disseminated their negative ideas about the berdaches. In the late 1800s, sequestered on reservations and influenced by Christian missionaries, many Native Americans began to view the berdaches as deviants and no longer as sacred people. By the mid-20th century, there were almost no berdaches left among Native tribes, and homosexuality was considered a white European phenomenon. In the 1970s and 1980s, though, the gay Indian movement sought to restore the berdaches (now commonly called "two-spirits") to their former place of distinction in Native American cultures. ▼

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.gay.net.

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Lesbian and gay participation sought for 1999 Conference on Aging

by Liz Highleyman

The Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network (LGAIN) is seeking gay and lesbian seniors over 60 years old to participate in a conference on aging to be held in March 1999. The conference, which will take place in Orlando, Florida, is the 45th annual meeting of the American Society on Aging (ASA), the largest association of professionals in the field of aging in the U.S.

LGAIN is a constituent group of the ASA, and focuses on the is-

sues of aging gays and lesbians. LGAIN aims to bring the concerns of older gays and lesbians to the attention of professionals who provide various services for the elderly, as well as to help make the voices of gay and lesbian seniors heard in their own communities. LGAIN hopes to bring older gay men and lesbians to Orlando to discuss their personal experiences regarding issues such as: caregiving and receiving, grandparenting, housing, professional choices, and bereavement.

LGAIN is actively seeking

funding to provide scholarship and travel assistance to elderly gay and lesbian attendees. Donations from individuals and groups, as well as foundation grants, are encouraged. ▼

Information about LGAIN and ASA is available on the website at www.asaging.com. For more information about the meeting, contact Gerard Koskovich at ASA, 833 Market Street, Suite 511, SF, CA 94103; phone (415) 974-9641; or e-mail gerardk@asa.asaging.org.

Florida prof conducts national study on lesbian domestic abuse

by Vicki Kolakowski

A Florida researcher is conducting one of the most extensive nationwide studies ever of physical and verbal partner abuse in lesbian relationships.

Dr. Cheryl Parks, an assistant professor at the School of Social Work at Florida State University, initiated the study because of the lack of data about the incidence, dynamics, and consequences of lesbian partner abuse.

Although the problem of domestic violence in same-sex relationships may be comparable in scope to that experienced in heterosexual relationships, there is very little hard data available. Without such data, it is difficult to develop and provide resources for both victims and perpetrators.

The survey covers basic information about relationships, experiences with partner abuse, and access to helping resources. It is totally anonymous, and may be completed either in a hard-copy paper format or by completing a form on Parks's web site. The web

site also contains files for the questionnaire in several formats.

Paper copies of the questionnaire or copies of the final results may be requested by contacting Dr. Cheryl Parks, School of Social

Work, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2570, (850) 644-4435. Her e-mail address is sparks@mail.fsu.edu and her web site is at <http://ssw.fsu.edu/parks>. ▼

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Robeson celebration ties in with pride

by Terrance Boykin

Paul Robeson, one of the champions of civil rights in the 20th century, will be commemorated at the San Francisco Pride Celebration. Most people remember Robeson as a star athlete, singer, actor, motion picture star, and a staunch political activist for human rights. Throughout the year, the Bay Area Paul Robeson Centennial Committee is sponsoring museum retrospectives, traveling exhibits, educational programs, and community festivals to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth on April 9, 1898.

Despite his achievements in the arts, Robeson chose to risk his popularity and success to make the struggle for equality his life's work. Pride committee board member Bill Beasley told the Bay Area Reporter, "Members of the San Francisco Pride committee are very excited about the exhibit. Robeson's life symbolizes everything that we're fighting to accomplish in our community."

Still controversial among conservatives, Robeson was an early champion of civil rights in the '40s and '50s; now, when fanatical right wing politicians and spiritual leaders advocate intolerance and opposition to the basic human rights of GLBT people, the focus of the Robeson obser-



Athlete/ actor/singer/activist/hero
Paul Robeson.

vance is to educate and empower the queer community at this crucial stage of the movement.

"It's very appropriate that we remember this man, who was a fearless human rights activist, at pride," said Judith Plummer, board member of the Bay Area Bi-Network and volunteer for Robeson pride events. "When you get past the food, the fun parties, and the parade, the point is to come together to celebrate our commitment to queer rights."

Poet Stephen Myers will perform a tribute to Robeson on the community stage at pride on Sunday, June 28 at 2 p.m. Accompanied by bass guitar artist Paris King, Myers will recite the poem, "Suite to the Mountains: for Paul Robeson," a jazz-blues cantata written by Antar Sudan Katara Mbri.

In addition to performances, Karl Bruce Knapper is scheduled as a guest speaker for the dedication. Knapper, a board member for the Funding Exchange and representative for the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media, told the B.A.R., "I grew up admiring his accomplishments. He wasn't one of those creative people who did progressive art [only] as long as the work was praised.

"He even put his career on the line to defend his beliefs."

The committee plans to date include the stage dedication and two booths focusing on Robeson's

legacy and the progressive film, video, and radio projects funded by the activist fund. The Robeson Fund for Independent Media has funded social issue-related media such as: Marlon Riggs's *Tongues Untied*, *Black Is, Black Ain't, Living with Pride: Ruth C. Ellis at 100*, *I Shall Not Be Removed* and the critically acclaimed *Breathing Lessons*. Established in 1987, the Independent Media Fund's primary focus is to support those artists whose work advocates progressive social change. Some of the issues important to the fund relate to homelessness, censorship, homophobia, international issues, racial and gender justice, violence, and government accountability.

Son of a slave

Robeson was born in Princeton, New Jersey, the youngest of five children. His father was a runaway slave from a North Carolina plantation, who managed to graduate from college and become an African Methodist-Episcopal minister. Paul sang in the choir. His mother, born to one of the oldest recorded African-American families, the Bustills, assisted her husband in his work by visiting the sick and bedridden, collecting food and clothing for the poor, and finding work for refugees fleeing the horrific conditions of the South. She died tragically from burns suffered from a fire, when Paul was six years old.

In 1915, the young Robeson won a four-year academic scholarship to Rutgers University - the third black student admitted to the then-private college. After being harassed in the school glee club, he turned his energies to sports and excelled in track, basketball, and football. He was the first All-American football player at Rutgers, but it wasn't until 19 years after his death that he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

He earned a law degree in 1923 and took a job with a prestigious law firm, but left the position after a white secretary refused to take dictation from him. He then turned his talents to the arts, where he made over 300 recordings and acted in films such as *The Emperor Jones*, *Proud Valley*, and *Jericho*. Appearing live in productions such as *Emperor Jones*, Show

next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Black gay pride weekend in Oakland

by Cynthia Laird

Oakland's black gay, lesbian, and transgender pride weekend is here with a variety of events taking place starting Friday, June 19 and continuing through Sunday, June 21. Most of the events are free, and all are open to the public, said organizer Bernard Henderson.

"I've been planning it for a whole year," Henderson told the Bay Area Reporter. "It's to bring us together to talk about our issues and getting us to talk together."

"It's Natural" is the theme of the pride weekend. The festivities get underway Friday night with the "Marlon Riggs Achievement Awards Ceremony" at the Parkway Theater, 1834 Park Boulevard at 18th Street from 7 to 9 p.m. Award recipients will include the Reverend Yvette Flunder, Sharlyn Grayson, Sylvia Rhue, Foxkee Brown of KMEL radio station, blackberry, and Dr. Robert Scott.

On Saturday, events take place at Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, near the Lake Merritt BART station. The day's activities

are free, including breakfast and lunch. There will be a session on quilt making for loved ones followed by workshops and discussion groups on a variety of topics, including HIV/AIDS treatment update, lesbian talk, domestic abuse, spirituality, gay men talk, and gay youth talk.

Various authors will also be on hand for book readings and signings. Authors include James Earl Hardy, Lisa C. Moore, K. Rhody Watson, and G.B. Mann.

That night, AIDS Project of the East Bay is hosting a free party at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Oakland. There's also a party at Club Rimshot, 120 11th Street at Oak; admission is \$7 per person.

On Sunday, several churches including two in San Francisco will participate in "Giving God Praise," on what's being billed "Oakland Black Gay Lesbian Transgender Day. The Oakland churches taking part include Love

Center Ministries, 6325 Camden Avenue at 8 and 11 a.m., and Allen Temple Baptist Church, 8500 A Street at 8 and 11 a.m. In San Francisco, services will be held at City of Refuge Ministries, 1025 Howard Street at 1 p.m., and Glide Memorial Church, 330 Ellis Street at 8 and 11 a.m.

That night, people can party down at the "official" pride party at Geoffrey's Inner Circle, 410 14th Street at Broadway in Oakland. Doors open at 8 p.m.; people must be 21 years of age or over and admission is \$10 per person. Headliners include emcee Benita Betrayal and Oakland recording artist Conscious Daughters and Michel Scott, billed as music's next revolution. There will be parties upstairs and downstairs. ▼

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Robeson

◀ previous page

Boat, and Othello, he used his singing to promote black spirituals as inspiration to audiences around the world, those struggling in the labor movement, and for civil rights in the U.S.

During the depression, Robeson declared that he was fed up with racism in the U.S. and fought for an anti-lynching law. As a result of his efforts to foster a better relationship between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union, he was interrogated by the House Un-American Activities Committee, led by Joseph McCarthy. Admiring the Soviet Union, he once said, "I walked the earth for the first time with complete dignity." Though never known to be a member of the Communist party, he never backed down in his support for the respect and equality he experienced in the Soviet Union, which resulted in his passport being revoked, and his work blacklisted at concert halls across the country. In 1952, he was barred from giving a concert at the San Francisco Opera House, but was allowed to perform at the Berkeley Community Theater.

Robeson's last public concert tour was in New Zealand and Australia, he retired in the early sixties and died in 1976 at the age of 77.

Robeson summed up his conviction by saying, "Every artist, every scientist must decide now where he stands. ... The artist must elect to fight for freedom or slavery. I have made my choice." On June 19 through June 27, a photo exhibit entitled *Freedom or Slavery: The Paul Robeson Portfolio* is open to the public at Bomanji Gallery, located at 251 Post Street. ▼

For more information on the efforts of the Robeson Centennial Committee call (510) 540-3656. Volunteers are needed at the Robeson Pride booth exhibits on June 28. Please contact Judith Plummer at (650) 654-1277.

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First U.S. Chinese 'Tongzhi' conference to be held during pride

by Saurabh Bajaj



Rick Garner

Another milestone approaches for the queer Asian community as over 200 delegates from all over the world, including Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia, will gather to attend the First U.S. Chinese Tongzhi Conference, to be held at the University of California at San Francisco during pride weekend, June 26-28.

"Tongzhi" is a Mandarin word that means "comrade," and has been adopted by Chinese gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people around the world to refer to their own community. Yet or-

ganizers of the conference have noted a lack of coalition building between Chinese communities throughout the world, and wish to address this problem. Said conference organizer Gary Wu, "Chinese people live in many different cultures in many different countries – it is important for people to get together and learn more about each other."

Another issue to be addressed at the conference will be the lack of resources for the Chinese queer community abroad. Lucky Choi, assistant conference coordinator, pointed out the fact that resources for the queer community in China are virtually nonexistent: "In China, there are no community-based HIV/AIDS organizations, no PFLAG to educate and support their families, no role modeling programs for their youth, no AIDS quilt for bereavement, and no suicide prevention hotlines." Yet even if agencies were created, the sheer size and culture of China would pose an immense problem for disseminating information. "In big cities there are places to meet, like bars, but China is very big and most people live in villages where it would be hard to get any information," said Wu. Conference attendees will attempt to address this challenge by discussing and planning the creation of an international support network, perhaps based in Hong Kong, as to better serve the East Asian area.

In addition to discussing methods of outreach to queer Chinese, the conference will offer a full-day symposium of workshops, forums, and panel discussions, which will be presented by internationally renowned speakers. Dozens of topics will be covered, including "Interracial & Cross Cultural Relationships," "Tongzhi in the Media," "Families and Tongzhi," "Sexuality in Chinese Culture," "Ageism in The Tongzhi Community," "Living in America: A Double Minority," and "Voices of Lesbian Tongzhi."

A Tongzhi book fair of hundreds of titles donated by over 30 Hong Kong and Taiwan publishers will also be held over the weekend in the Castro neighborhood.

In the end, conference organizers hope the program will begin to foster a pan-cultural community and broaden awareness of the existence of Chinese Tongzhi. Even here in San Francisco, the Tongzhi community has not found much support from the broader Chinese community. "Here we have the two most influential communities in San Francisco, the queer community and the Chinese community – we need to have more collaboration between the two and have a common goal," said Choi.

Choi hopes that by the end of pride weekend, the attainment of that goal will be in sight. ▼

Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

Adverse events reported in clinical trials with PROCIT in cancer patients were consistent with the underlying disease state. In double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of up to 3-months duration involving 131 cancer patients, adverse events with an incidence > 10% in either patients treated with PROCIT or placebo-treated patients were as indicated below.

Percent of Patients Reporting Event

Patients Treated with PROCIT Patients Treated with PLACEBO

Event	(N=63)	(N=68)
Pyrexia	29%	19%
Diarrhea	21%	7%
Nausea	17%	32%
Vomiting	17%	15%
Edema	17%	1%
Asthenia	13%	16%
Fatigue	13%	15%
Shortness of Breath	13%	9%
Paresthesia	11%	6%
Upper Respiratory	11%	4%
Infection		
Dizziness	5%	12%
Trunk Pain	3%	16%

a p = 0.041 b p = 0.069 c p = 0.0016 d p = 0.017

Although some statistically significant differences between patients treated with PROCIT and placebo-treated patients were noted, the overall safety profile of PROCIT appeared to be consistent with the disease process of advanced cancer. During double-blind and subsequent open-label therapy in which patients (N=72) were treated for up to 32 weeks with doses as high as 927 Units/kg, the adverse experience profile of PROCIT was consistent with the profile of advanced cancer.

Based on comparable survival data and on the percentage of patients treated with PROCIT and placebo-treated patients who discontinued therapy due to death, disease progression or adverse experiences (22% and 13%, respectively, p=0.25), the clinical outcome in patients treated with PROCIT and placebo-treated patients appeared to be similar. Available data from animal tumor models and measurement of proliferation of solid tumors and fractional biopsy specimen responses to PROCIT does not indicate tumor growth. Nevertheless, as a growth factor, the possibility that PROCIT may potentiate growth of some tumors, particularly myeloid tumors, cannot be excluded.

The mean peripheral white blood cell count was unchanged following PROCIT therapy compared to the corresponding value in the placebo-treated group.

OVERDOSAGE

The maximum amount of PROCIT that can be safely administered in single or multiple doses has not been determined. Doses of up to 1,500 Units/kg (T.I.W.) for three to four weeks have been administered without any direct toxic effects of PROCIT itself. Therapy with PROCIT should be discontinued if the hematocrit is not carefully monitored and the dose appropriately adjusted. If the suggested target range is exceeded, PROCIT may be temporarily withheld until the hematocrit returns to the suggested target range. PROCIT therapy may then be resumed using a lower dose (see "DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION"). If polypharmacy is of concern, phlebotomy may be indicated to decrease the hematocrit.

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The conference will be held June 26-28 at UCSF. To receive information, write: First US Chinese Tongzhi Conference, 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103, or call (415) 255-8680.

Polk Street merchants offer pride-goers passports to discounts

by Mark Mardon

Once the center of gay life in San Francisco, Polk Street in recent years has been overshadowed as a tourist destination by the more glamorous, upscale Castro. But with the city's annual gay pride celebration returning to Civic Center after a long absence, drawing thousands of hungry, thirsty queers to the foot of Polk Street, merchants along the strip want to claim some of the action. Many, including several new to the street, are actively enticing revelers to their establishments during the week of festivities, and showing off their neighborhood's current renaissance.

The Polk Street Merchants Association, headed by QT II bar owner Mary Warren, hopes newly-created "Passport to Polk Street" booklets will draw crowds to the neighborhood commonly called the Polk Gulch. The \$5 booklets offer revelers discount coupons redeemable for up to \$25 worth of goods and services at a host of participating bars, restaurants, and retail stores.

Post-paraders can quench their thirsts at such venerable Polk Street drinking establishments as Reflections, the Giraffe, Kimo's, the Rendezvous, the Swallow, and QT II, among others, or find select video entertainment at the Locker Room. The exterior of the latter sports a huge banner advertising "sales galore" in time for the pride celebrants.

A must-see on the street is the spanking new, thoroughly remodeled 1100 Club, which opened June 12 at the site of the former Polk Gulch Saloon.

Jon Crovo, who opened the club with partners Matt Neal and Dean Leri after purchasing the building on May 8, said that while many new beers will be served on tap, some things at the club will remain the same.

"Friday nights will still be drag nights," he hastened to assure regular patrons, and the ever-popular Cockatelia will perform on June 26, at about 10 p.m. Wednesdays will continue to be "ladies' night," he added.

The 1100 Club redesign includes a small stage where stand-up comics, jazz combos, and divas will perform. High-energy DJs and light shows will liven the club after nightfall.

On many occasions the 1100 Club will host fundraisers for nonprofit organizations, said Crovo, who serves on the board of the Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County.



Ready for business: A workman puts the finishing touches on the 1100 Club.

Shelter to relocate

Just a short walk up the block, at 1338 Polk Street, is Margie's Diner, opened just four months ago by former Polk Gulch Saloon manager Steve Valone, who moved to the city 18 years ago from Chicago.

"We have the best food on the block," Valone insisted, emerging from a sparkling clean kitchen to proffer a menu replete with eight kinds of burgers (as well as "build your own" models), homemade soups, appetizers, meaty hot sandwiches, "pink plate specials" (including meatloaf and roast

beef), and (for those early risers) a complete breakfast lineup.

With lots of mirrors and framed photos on the walls, Margie's features a slick, early 1960s design, and already draws a crowd of neighborhood regulars.

Along with the 1100 Club and Quetzal, another new eatery on the street, Margie's represents the rebirth of Polk Street after a long decline, brought on in the 1980s in part by the toll AIDS took among neighborhood residents and shopkeepers, and, according to Warren, by an influx of pan-handlers and drug dealers.

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hood, including heroin and speed dealing, rape, and even murder.

With stepped up policing in the area, along with ongoing efforts to revitalize the area, said Warren, the street is fast turning around. A new multiplex theater will soon be in operation on the street, and storefronts currently boarded up may soon be boasting displays by new shop owners. An influx of young artists to the neighborhood is adding a new Bohemian touch to the area.

Ironically, it's the grunge fac-

page 23 ▶

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Poliakov murder

◀ page 1

himself from a sexual assault.

In an exclusive interview with the Bay Area Reporter, the star witness for the prosecution's case against Puckett says he feels very uncomfortable about his role in the trial, but feels he had to come forward as a matter of conscience. "David's" name will be made public when he testifies next week, but as a condition of the interview, he asked the B.A.R. to withhold his name, until after he left.

David met Puckett at a party last June. Puckett left the party with David and a young woman and headed to David's apartment. David, who — like Puckett — is strikingly handsome, says after they got to his place the woman said it was obvious that Puckett wanted David more than her, and she left.

Puckett stayed the night. David says they had sex once, but he declined to go into detail. He adds that Puckett was "very physically affectionate" and had made overtures towards him on several occasions, but he says he had only one sexual contact with him.

Puckett stayed with him off and on over the summer.

Puckett called David just hours before he killed Vitaly Poliakov over Labor Day weekend, and "sounded very cold, like a different person." David says Puckett talked about how he and his friend had just burglarized someone's house. "He was in his street talk mode." David says he would get that way from time to time and talk about how angry he was, and would refer to gay men as "faggots." David believes Puckett had a lot of internalized homophobia. "I knew it was only a matter of time before he killed a gay man, I was just glad it wasn't me."

David adds that Puckett had said several times that he had wanted to kill someone. On one occasion, he says Puckett broke down and cried about how bad his life was.

David tells the B.A.R. he still has feelings for Puckett, and that it will be hard for him to take the stand and say anything negative about him. He says he's even considered going back on everything he's told prosecutors, but he says he'll tell the truth when he testifies because he believes Puckett should have to pay for his crime.

David adds that he feels extremely uncomfortable about testifying about having sex with Puckett. Prosecutors will try to elicit that testimony to keep Puckett's attorney from using any sort of "gay panic" defense, that gay sex was so alien to Puckett that he reacted in a panic to what he perceived to be a repugnant act.

As the B.A.R. reported last week, prosecutors believe they can prove Puckett had a sexual relationship with his victim, Poliakov. A DNA analysis of semen stain on

Poliakov's bedding showed it was Poliakov's, but it was mixed with Puckett's saliva.

Girlfriend: 'He's straight'

The B.A.R. has learned that at least one of Puckett's girlfriends will likely be called to testify for the defense. "Linda" also spoke to the B.A.R. under the condition of anonymity. She says that although she met Puckett in a gay club, she's convinced that he's straight. Linda believes Puckett had a great friendship with the gay community and because of his good looks and affable personality, he was af-

fated opportunities that he may not have been afforded in any other community.

Linda says she is aware of Puckett's juvenile crime history, but she believes he was only acting in self-defense.

"If someone tried to rape me," she said, "I'd hit them on the head with the first thing I could find, too."

Puckett confessed to hitting Poliakov several times with a bottle. Investigators believe the fatal blow likely came from behind, while Poliakov was lying on his stomach. ▼

COURT REPORT

The defense reveals its strategy

This week, Josh Puckett's defense attorney, Mark Liss, tried to get prosecutor Barry Grove thrown off the case for allegedly intimidating his star witness. On Monday, that witness, Michael Stephan, took the stand to testify against Grove, but in the process was asked by Judge James Marchiano to reveal what he planned to testify to during the trial.

Stephan related an incident two years ago in which he said Vitaly Poliakov had tried to sexually assault him and a friend. He said it left him feeling "nervous, scared, and endangered." He said he identified with what Puckett must have felt in his encounter with Poliakov.

Stephan testified that he attended a party on Poliakov's houseboat with several other people. He said that as the party ensued he and a friend became tired, and went to sleep on the front of the boat. He says they were both lying down fully clothed when Poliakov pulled back a curtain and entered that section of the boat. He said Poliakov "removed his pants and held his belt over us." Stephan says Poliakov then tried to remove his friend's belt. He says his friend "got scared" and told Poliakov to leave him alone. He says that's when Poliakov approached him. He said he held onto Poliakov's belt and glared at him and Poliakov went away.

Stephan was not cross-examined on his testimony relating to the houseboat incident, so it's unclear about the manner in which Poliakov was holding his belt, or why he felt threatened by it. After Stephan left the stand, Grove said that Stephan had acknowledged to him that he brunches with Poliakov the day following the alleged attempted sexual assault. Stephan declined to speak with the Bay Area Reporter outside the hearing.

Most of Stephan's testimony centered around a 10-minute telephone conversation he had with Grove. Liss says Grove had tried to intimidate Stephan into changing his story. Stephan testified that Grove had volunteered information about Puckett's criminal record, but he said he wasn't influenced into changing his story.

Liss told Marchiano that Grove was trying to bully Stephan. He said the incident was another example of Grove overstepping his bounds as a prosecutor.

Liss again brought up the issue of a letter to the editor published in the B.A.R. in March, in which Grove had pleaded for anyone with information to come forward. Another judge had previously ruled against the defense's request to get Grove removed over the letter. Liss again stated his belief that Grove had used the B.A.R. to rally the gay community against his client.

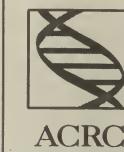
Marchiano ruled against the defense's request to remove Grove from the case or to impose sanctions, but he said he would revisit the matter during a hearing after the trial. He added that he found Stephan to be a "soft-spoken and very credible" witness.

Marchiano announced that he expects the case to take three weeks. ▼

— Ed Walsh



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Dreamgirls



Deborah Brewer and date Sarah Vonnegut were their dreams come true, the theme of the fourth annual Gay Prom in Hayward, as they danced until midnight. Over 200 youth from around the Bay Area attended the June 13 affair, which included food from Planet Hollywood, dinosaur props, and a screening room full of games and safe sex information.

Contra Costa AIDS service center to perform free play

by Vicki Kolakowski

Clients of the AIDS Community Network (ACN) will perform a free play in Richmond's Nicholl Park next Friday, June 26 at noon.

Partners: What's Love Got To Do With It? is a play written and performed by clients of ACN, Contra Costa County's only multi-service day center for people living with HIV and AIDS. The play deals with some of the ways that people put themselves at risk for HIV transmission.

Funded by a grant from the Horizons Foundation, admission to the event is free, and includes a barbecue luncheon immediate-

ly following the play.

ACN is a program of Richmond's Tranquillium Center, and provides a range of counseling and advocacy services, alternative therapies and basic life support services. ACN's numerous activities, including this play, are designed to empower persons living with HIV and AIDS to greater self-reliance while providing opportunities for community involvement and education.

ACN's "Theater in the Park" production of *Partners* will begin at noon Friday, June 26 in Nicholl Park, located at 29th and MacDonald in Richmond. The barbecue will begin at the conclusion of the play.

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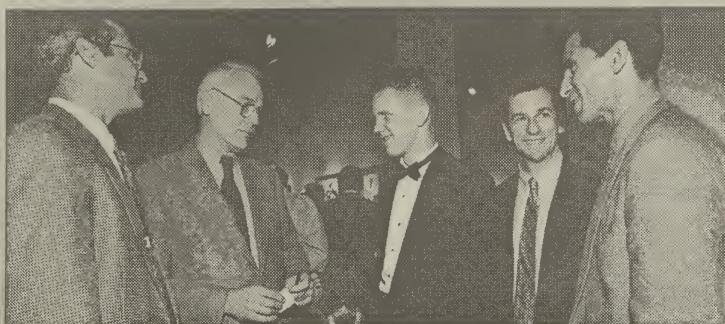
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Educational evening



JANE PHILPOT/OUTLINE

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) held its first West Coast fundraiser at the John Pence Gallery on Post Street June 10. From left to right are event co-chair Tom Downing, co-chair and host John Pence, GLSEN activist Ryan Hughes, GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings and Supervisor Mark Leno. GLSEN's goal is to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation.

NGLTF releases survey on tolerance

by Liz Highleyman

The Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) recently released the results of a new analysis that shows that a majority of Americans support some civil rights for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender people. However, there are still several areas in which anti-gay sentiment remains entrenched.

The report of the analysis, entitled *From Wrongs To Rights: Public Opinion On Gay and Lesbian Americans Move Toward Equality*, was released May 29. The study, authored by doctoral candidate Alan Yang of Columbia University, is a meta-analysis that looks at public opinion polls conducted over the last two decades. The report examines public sentiment in the areas of family issues, employment, housing, the military, and sodomy laws. The report does not specify whether the polls that were analyzed asked about gay men and lesbians only, or whether they also examined public opinion regarding bisexuals and transgendered people; many surveys do not distinguish among these groups.

Among the more encouraging findings, the analysis found that a majority of Americans support equal rights for gays in the areas of employment (84 percent), housing (81 percent), the military (66

percent), and inheritance rights (62 percent) and social security benefits for same-sex couples (57 percent). Positive attitudes about equal employment extend to controversial positions such as teachers, doctors, clergy, and elected officials. Support for gay and lesbian elementary school teachers doubled between 1977 and 1996 (now 55 percent in favor). Fifty-three percent even say that being gay or lesbian should not disqualify one from becoming president. About 70 percent of respondents believe that homosexual sex between consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes should be legal.

According to Policy Institute director Urvashi Vaid, the report "illustrates the success of efforts to achieve civil equality" for queers. She added that, "The post-Stonewall strategies of coming out, public education, steady lobbying, direct action, and campaigns for legal equality have successfully shifted public opinion toward support for equal rights."

However, there are several areas in which discrimination remains entrenched and, according to Vaid, queers remain "one of the most disliked groups in the nation." A majority of Americans still disapprove of same-sex relationships (56 percent opposed) – although the percentage has declined substantially from 75 percent in 1987 – and same-sex mar-

riage (65 percent opposed). About half disapprove of adoption by same-sex couples, down from two-thirds opposed earlier in the decade. Fifty-two percent of respondents in 1997 said that same-sex relationships between consenting adults were "morally wrong."

The analysis indicates that political ideology and party affiliation are connected to attitudes toward gay equality. Republicans and self-defined conservatives are less likely to express tolerance toward gays, but the most vehement anti-gay sentiment is limited to a small right-wing minority. According to NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel, "In its opposition to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality, it is the right wing that is out of step with mainstream America."

NGLTF is an advocacy organization that works to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national levels. The NGLTF Policy Institute is a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis, and strategic projects to advance greater understanding and the equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. ▼

The full report is on the web at www.ngltf.org/press/yang.html.

Navy, AOL settle with gay sailor

United Press International

The U.S. Navy and America Online have settled lawsuits filed by a sailor who was investigated after he posted an anonymous online message describing himself as gay.

Under the Navy agreement, 36-year-old Master Chief Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh will retire from the Navy with full benefits and receive money for legal fees. He is no relation to the Oklahoma City bomber of the same name.

America Online spokeswoman Tricia Primrose told United Press International the online giant has apologized for giving out McVeigh's name. Under a separate

agreement, the company has agreed to pay an unspecified amount for damages.

Primrose said: "We recognized that AOL had made a mistake. We realize that what happened was a result of human error, and we absolutely regret it."

In a telephone interview, McVeigh told the *New York Times*, "I'm happy that this case has been resolved on my terms. ... I hope it sends the message that the rules and regulations that are in place need to be followed by the military."

The Navy had originally sought to discharge the decorated sailor without any benefits because he posted a note on America Online that identified himself as "Tim," a "gay" man with the e-

mail address "Boysrch."

Primrose admitted the Navy investigator duped an AOL employee into confirming that the company had a customer matching McVeigh's name. "The person calling pretended to be a friend (of McVeigh's)," she said, "and misled our customer service representative." America Online has since rewritten its privacy policy in easier-to-understand language.

Last January, a Washington federal judge ordered the Navy to halt its efforts to dismiss McVeigh, and ruled the Navy's probe into his sexual orientation violated the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy that ostensibly bars the military from inquiring about a service member's sexuality. ▼

Homosexuality is a sin, declares Lott

And there's a same-sex twist to the story

by Bob Roehr

Those wacky Republicans just keep saying the darnest things. This time it is Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott mouthing off that homosexuality is a sin. "You should still love that person," he added. "You should not try to mistreat them or treat them as outcasts. You should show them a way to deal with the problem, like alcohol ... or sex addiction ... or kleptomaniacs."

Lott's "enlightened" remarks came at a taping of a cable television public affairs program, *The Armstrong Williams Show*, slated for airing in mid to late June. The host is African-American and a darling of the right wing.

"Senator Lott has insulted every gay person in the Republican Party," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "Doesn't he realize that the American Psychological Association put this issue behind them 25 years ago?"

These comments show "how the extreme right wing has a stranglehold on the leadership" of Congress, said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). She said that Lott was "out of step with the American people and prevailing medical and mental health opinion."

The White House echoed her comment Tuesday, with press secretary Mike McCurry describing the Mississippi Republican as emblematic of conservatives who are "so backward in their thinking."

McCurry insisted that for more than 25 years, "it's been quite clear that sexual orientation is not an affliction, it is not a disease, it is something that is a part of defining one's sexuality."

McCurry said, "The fact that the majority leader has such views, apparently consistent with some who are fairly extreme in his party, is an indicator of how difficult it is to do rational work in Washington."

Lott later told reporters, "Mr. McCurry's experience with this White House does not qualify him to tell the American people what is right and what is wrong. What he considers backward are the views and values of a great



Trent Lott

majority of Americans, who understand and are concerned about the grave social and ethical questions our country faces."

Williams 'hypocrisy'?

The incident abounds with much less than seven degrees of separation from a gay angle. Key is the fact that a former employee, Stephen Gregory, is suing Armstrong Williams for same-sex sexual harassment. In a lawsuit filed in April of last year and a news conference outside the court-house, Gregory claimed, "He touched me on the butt, he grabbed my penis." Williams denied it. Both men proclaimed their heterosexuality.

The case has proceeded at its own turgid pace. A few weeks ago the court dismissed Williams's motion to have it thrown out, said Gregory's attorney Mickey J. Wheatley. The case appears to be headed for a fall trial.

Wheatley charges that Williams, in anticipation of the trial, is attempting to build up his stature with the far right by gay baiting. "It just points out the hypocrisy of this charade."

Lott has his own gay connections. His press secretary, Susan Irby, once worked for openly gay Congressman Steve Gunderson, now retired. And in the 1980s, his colleague, Mississippi Republican

Congressman Jon Hinson, was arrested in a Longworth House office building rest room having sex with another man. Hinson lost his bid for reelection and later died of AIDS.

But given that Lott believes that homosexuals should be loved and not treated as outcasts, perhaps he will then see fit to schedule a confirmation vote on the long-delayed nomination of James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg. Even the conservative *Wall Street Journal* has editorially opined that only bigotry has prevented a vote on the San Francisco's nomination.

Democratic Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota took to the Senate floor Tuesday to criticize Lott's remarks, and his seven-month delay of Senate consideration of Hormel.

Wellstone said, "I think the vast majority of senators are ready to vote for Mr. Hormel...and I think the U.S. Senate would be better off if we bring this nomination to the floor. ... Otherwise, I worry about a climate that is going to become increasingly polarized, increasingly poisonous." ▼

United Press International contributed to this report.

Polk Street

◀ page 19

tor, along with the area's slightly lower rent, that draws the artists to the Polk Gulch neighborhood. Some, such as Brent Haas of SPACE, a combination art gallery and hair salon next door to the Giraffe bar, expresses fondness for the street's hustlers, trannies, and homeless denizens. In its year of operation, SPACE has enjoyed considerable success, showcasing the neighborhood's considerable talent while turning out multi-hued hairstyles that add to the local color.

Not easy yet

To be sure, not every new business on the street is finding overnight success. One new cafe catering mostly to young artists,

the Eleven Eleven Lounge, is still struggling after only six months in operation.

"It takes time to build up a clientele," said owner Josie Lazo, whose establishment features multi-ethnic vegetarian and vegan fare along with occasional yoga classes, tarot readings, live jazz, and various DJs. In contrast with the gleaming interior of Margie's, the Eleven Eleven Lounge has a funky, almost divey atmosphere that has yet to catch on in a big way with the area's denizens. Yet Lazo holds out hope that those who prefer non-meat meals will eventually find their way to her place.

Pride goers who make their way up Polk Street during the celebration will discover that far from being a relic of its historic self, the street is shaking itself up, becoming the next big thing to happen in the queer community. ▼

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Hogs for a cause



Jane Philomen Cleland

Shanti's "Ride for Life — Pride Ride" took off June 14 from China Basin Landing and cruised through the Castro and around the perimeter of the city. The motorcyclists (and a separate group on motor scooters) wound up at the Powerhouse on Folsom Street for a beer/soda bust party. Last year's event raised \$11,000 for Shanti, the SF HIV/AIDS service organization, and last weekend's run appeared likely to do as well.

Organs

◀ page 1

San Francisco Hepatitis C Support Project were infuriated. After all aren't doctors supposed to advocate in favor of patient treatment coverage? Why was UC saying it wanted to perform HIV+ transplants, and at the same time, advising a third party payer not to cover the operations?

"I wonder how many other so-called verbal agreements not to request coverage UC has with

other insurance companies?" speculated Rick Solomon, a Hep C and HIV patient.

Hext, who has almost died at least twice in the last six months from liver failure, is outraged. Recently, he stormed out of the U.C. Liver Transplant Center Clinic in tears, threatening lawsuits against both UC and MediCal. Doctors responded by downgrading Hext's need for liver transplant, a tactic that Golden Gate activists have seen before when the Veteran's Administration Hospital changed the status of a would-be heart transplant patient to low priority after advocacy groups stepped in to help.

subhead

"The reason that UC has not gone ahead with its HIV+ transplant program because they declared these transplants to be 'experimental,' thereby excluding most insurance coverage," said Brenda Lein of Project Inform. "Although they say they planned to obtain other funding, there was no real attempt made to do so, until only recently when Golden Gate forced a show-down in April."

Lein, Golden Gate activists, and others attended a tense meeting between UC transplant surgeons, MediCal officials, and other medical insurers in April. The outcome of the meeting was an expected collusion between conservative surgeons and insurance companies not to pay for any transplants. Surgeons who would have been in favor of going forward with HIV+ liver and kidney transplants were not at the meeting, which was arranged by MediCal and Ascher. The pleas of both AIDS activists and AIDS clinicians fell on deaf ears. There was only agreement to move forward with research protocols.

To date there have been several liver transplants performed on HIV+ patients. Most of these took place before there were any good treatments for HIV disease, and most of these patients went on to die from AIDS. Recently, there have been three or four HIV+ liver transplants on patients who are using the new HIV cocktail treatment therapies. News from two such patients who received livers in Pennsylvania have been good so far. The condition of the UC patient is unknown.

There is little data to prove

whether or not these transplants are viable; the only way to find out is to go ahead with the surgery. Third party coverage is essential and historically not untypical to such transplant research. Activists and patients feel that telling insurance companies that these transplants are of higher risk is within reason, but the usual definition of "experimental" does not pertain since there is no need for FDA approval.

"The outright denial of consideration of any one group of people — PWAs, who now live a very long time — is a sad and scary precedent," said Virginia Cafaro, M.D., a local AIDS clinician. "Who will be next?"

Some wonder if there isn't some other reason why these transplants are not moving forward quickly. One need only read correspondence between surgeons and state officials to discover that the issue of scarce organ supply is a prime concern. A recent letter from MediCal to State Assemblywoman Carol Migden closed with a paragraph that voiced such concerns.

"Why is MediCal suddenly in the organ allocation business?" questions Alan Franciscan, a Hep C activist. "Perhaps the real reason these transplants aren't happening is because the conservative transplant community doesn't want yet another disease group competing for these organs."

Meanwhile, Hext and several other potential liver transplant patients' lives hang in the balance. "I cannot express the anger and frustration I feel over this situation," Hext said recently. Rather than attend Hext's memorial service, Golden Gate activists decided to force the issue with an old fashioned street demonstration at the UCSF Parnassus campus, in front of the Medical Sciences Building, Wednesday, June 17, at noon.

Featured speakers were San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano, AIDS Clinician Dr. Mary Roymayne, and representatives from the Hep C Support Project.

"I never guessed I would be demonstrating with ACT UP in the streets," Hext said, "but now I realize how push comes to shove, and why these demonstrations are needed. I am literally fighting for my own life, and the lives of others with my condition." ▼

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ads, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Rick Cooper

April 16, 1951 — May 18, 1998



You'll always be in our hearts.

In the early hours of May 18, after a long and courageous fight with AIDS, Rick made his transition from a physical life to a more spiritual one. He was surrounded by friends who love him.

Rick is survived by his mom and dad, Ida and Bill; sisters, Kathy and Barbara; brother, Gary; and their families. There will be a celebration of Rick's life on Saturday, June 27, 1-3 p.m., at the Albert Brown Mortuary, 3476 Piedmont Ave. in Oakland. Donations in Rick's

name can be sent to Project Open Hand, 750 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

William Jude Gerard

May 8, 1946 — May 15, 1998



William Jude Gerard of Columbus and formerly of San Francisco died Friday, May 15, at Hospice's Kobacker House in Columbus, Ohio. His burial was at Forest Hill Cemetery in Piqua, Ohio.

Douglas Boris Espy

Jan. 22, 1938 — June 11, 1998



May his memory be eternal!

Doug was born at an early age in San Francisco, and lived in and around the Bay Area for almost all of his 60 years. A true San Franciscan, he lived his life to its fullest. He became ill shortly before Russian Orthodox Easter in April. He was hospitalized on Mother's Day at SF General Hospital, where he died.

Doug, well-known in the leather community since the mid-1950s, was a member of Men in Boots, a bartender at the original Tool Box, and a former member of the G.D.I. Leather Club. He was also a member in good standing of Saints Theodore Tiro and Theodore Stratilates Eastern Orthodox Parish, and served as reader in the parish. He is survived by his lover of three years, Steven Dusen.

Funeral services will be held on Sat-

urday, June 27, at 10:30 a.m. at Saints Theodore Tiro and Theodore Stratilates Eastern Orthodox Parish, located at the corner of Austin Alley and Gough Street in San Francisco between Bush Street and Pine Street (the iron gate next to Trinity Episcopal). For further information, call Steve at 431-8920 or Bishop Elias at 255-6256.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Asian & Pacific Island Wellness Center.

Jim Rasmussen

Oct. 21, 1931 — May 19, 1998



James N. Rasmussen died of natural causes at his home in the Twin Peaks area of San Francisco on Tuesday, May 19. He was 66.

Jim, the only child of the late Charles A. and Juanita M. Rasmussen, was born in Centralia, Wash.; attended elementary and high school in Seattle; studied engineering at the University of Washington; and served with distinction in the U.S. Navy as a sonarman first class during the Korean War. After the Navy, he moved to Los Angeles, where his artistic talents led to a successful career as a puppeteer and musician (the accordion) with the Turnabout Theatre there and in San Francisco.

In 1960, Wells Fargo Bank employed him in its then new Computer Division. He rose to become data programming engineer before retiring in 1979. Since then he had enjoyed a life of leisure.

Jim is survived by his cousin, Dorothy Roe of Seattle, and a host of friends here. He will be missed for his outgoing good humor, and an unfailing and endless supply of greeting cards for all occasions.

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Catholic

◀ page 3

To this day, people remain fearful of speaking out publicly, afraid they will be branded as "troublemakers" by the agency.

"People would get up with night sweats and wake up with 45 degree rooms," said one resident who requested anonymity.

As a result of the petitions, the planning council approved a policy statement last month calling for all CARE-funded AIDS housing programs to maintain an ambient room temperature of 68 degrees. That language has yet to be

written into all of the contracts, but it's start, and those programs found in violation will most likely be reviewed by the Department of Public Health's AIDS Office for being in violation of the contract.

The lack of heat resulted in another serious problem at Derek Silva. Many residents went out and bought space heaters. While the heaters helped keep rooms warmer, they overloaded the electrical system so that power outages became frequent, angering residents all the more.

Another previous problem involved the lack of fire alarms for hearing-impaired residents. Catholic Charities took over a year to get the ADA-approved

(Americans with Disabilities Act) fire alarms installed. Prior to that there was a fire at the facility, and some residents did not hear the alarms.

Some residents are hopeful now that the previous program director has left. Toni Young, the new acting program director has already met with residents once and more meetings are planned, residents said. Young said she's working to develop a 45-day plan and she hopes to actively involve the residents in fixing the problems.

"One of the things we're trying to do is support the tenants association," Young said. "We want to make it a home of residents and that's what I'm trying to do." ▼

Cornell 'Connie' Garron memorial Saturday

by Seraphina Langusto

Friends will hold a memorial and musical remembrance of Cornell Garron (a.k.a. the former Empress XVIII Connie) this Saturday, June 20. It will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, located at Franklin and Bush streets, beginning at 2 p.m.

Garron was an accomplished cellist, performing with the Oakland and Berkeley symphonies, plus many of the civil light opera groups in the Bay Area. A pianist and a harpist as well, he also performed for numerous weddings and midnight Masses at First Congregational Church of San Francisco.

As Connie, Garron, he was proclaimed Empress XVIII of San Francisco in 1913.

Garron worked for many years at Alta Bates and Mills-Memorial hospitals. He died May 23. ▼

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In brief, you will follow a study schedule like this: Stay in VA Palo Alto Study Unit 4 days; return home; then take 10 consecutive daily observed doses of CPI-1189 @9am; then return to the study unit for another full day; then go home & come back the next 2 days @9am for blood draws and then get paid.

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The spike

by Jim Provenzano

Volleyball is certainly one of the more popular sports among gay folk: it's group-oriented; finding a space is relatively easy; we look great in shorts; and despite the velocity of those ESPN beach hunks spiking at 120 MPH, it is actually easy to play.

Former volleyball jock Ken Posey is not competing, but is going to Gay Games with his boyfriend, Gary, who is. The long-time organizer for the local group of volleyball enthusiasts was pivotal in creating Spike for Life, a successful annual AIDS fundraiser. "We had done it with the AIDS Foundation," he said. "But this year they were reluctant about us doing the fundraiser." Perhaps SFAF finally realized, between yet another costly move and those bloated salaries, that they really do have too much money. Oops, wrong column.

Anyway, last year, the volley-

ballers changed their recipient to AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC). The event grossed about \$24,000 for ABC last year. This year, several facilities were not available, as they were resurfacing the floor or retrofitting gyms. Eureka Valley Rec. Center brilliantly decided to resurface their gym floor right before Gay Games, so several sports are without facilities for the next several weeks.

Gay volleyball has grown by, well, leaps and bounds, literally. NAGVA, the North American Gay Volleyball Association, is the informal governing body of gay volleyball events. Throughout the year they run regional volleyball tournaments, and although some teams are competitive, Posey said that "pretty much anyone can apply." A few years back, Posey added, "We didn't have anything in SF so they started what was a very small tournament." That's grown from

last year's, which was the largest, with 40 teams from Atlanta, Tampa, Vancouver, and the West Coast.

Aside from NAGVA, Posey says, gay volleyball is an inclusive group. "Previously, with smaller teams, there was a more group feeling, though in the last few years, it's larger, so each team is more on their own."



He's a pepper

Derrick Connolly, captain of the San Francisco Peppers, plays on Sundays with his team. But don't count on that for the next few weeks. He said they will have to move to a couple of other places for the next month of practices, and some team members are heading off to Europe early.

Everyone hopes they'll have time to re-group once they are in Amsterdam – but the 34-year-old Connolly is not too concerned. "We've played well together a lot. We know each other's styles."

Connolly has played volleyball since seventh grade in Los Angeles. As far as sports, for him, "volleyball was it. It was the only sport that was comfortable for us queer boys to play."

But with a strict Catholic upbringing, he only figured out many of his teammates were gay years later. "It was interesting how we did tend to group together. Perhaps 'gaydar' is innate, not learned. Hmm."



The SF Peppers spike a few at practice on their way to Gay Games V.

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Gay jock groupings with NAGVA are a more conscious act, with a tournament taking place almost once a month. The Peppers try to attend as many as possible. "It depends on how far it is, if we can afford to go," Connolly said.

He hasn't heard about the other competitors, but chances are other U.S. teams like Seattle will do well. A strong German contingent may also provide a lot of competition.

But the focus for the Peppers is inclusion and fun, not who wins. Still, "it's extremely strenuous," Connolly said, adding that he "mostly plays for the exercise in a way that's fun, when there's a ball involved."

And despite his LA upbringing, he does not play the tougher two-on-two beach version. "Just indoors. I used to play growing up on the beach, but I'm not much of a sun person, with my Irish skin!"

The team effort is also his preference. "When you're actually playing you have to concentrate. It's a great way to take your mind off problems."

They also hang out together. "We enjoy each other's company," he said of their regular post-practice treks to nearby Badlands.

"Whenever we bring a new person in, we're not a real cut-throat bunch, trying to reconfigure our team to get the best players. Some teams do that. We don't. It's a nice team."

Connolly also has some inside dish from Amsterdam. "One of our players moved to Amsterdam in March," he said. "He says plans are going well, but it's already a crowded city, and he doesn't think they know what they're getting into, or have a realistic idea of what it'll be like with thousands of queens invading their city."

Probably no worse than Gay Day at Disneyland, but the rides will be different, as will the refreshments! ▼

For more info on supporting the Peppers, call Derrick Connolly at (415) 863-4038. Another group that meets informally, and which competes, but will not be going to Gay Games, is Gay Volleyball, every Sunday between 11:30 and 3:30 in the school yard at 18th and DeHaro in the south of Market area. For info, call Jay at (415) 864-0257.

GAY GAMES UPDATE

Hundreds of Christians intend to evangelize during Gay Games

by Nellie Voss and Paul Van Yperen

Hundreds of Christian youths are expected in Amsterdam during Gay Games for a large evangelization campaign. The organizers, Jeugd met een Boodschap (Youth With A Mission), denied that their aim is to convert homosexuals into heterosexual Christians. A spokesperson in the Dutch magazine *De Gay Krant* said, "It is not because of the Gay Games. We campaign every summer."

Evangelizer Bert Dorenbosch tells in the Dutch daily *De Gelderlander* a completely different story. The former boss of the Dutch Christian Television station EO says, "It is a perfect opportunity for us. I will participate in groups of prayers who have Gay Games on their agenda. I might also help spreading leaflets. Homosexuals do not live according to the Bible. Romans I and II are very clear about this. Relationships between men and men and women and women do not belong to the fruits of light. The Gay Games are contributing to darkness in Amsterdam."

The Raad van Kerken (Council of Churches) in Amsterdam is distancing itself from the evangelization action. This council, to which twelve church communities belong, will organize an ecumenical church service in honor of Gay Games on August 2 in the world famous Oude Kerk (Old Church). The Deacons of the Dutch Reformed Churches are financially supporting this service. The combined Dutch lesbian and gay religious groups are organizing a "light center" during Gay Games. This center provides participants and visitors the opportunity for reflection and rest in a "light room." Gay men and lesbian women from different religions and traditions, such as Buddhist, Islamic, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant, are there to talk with visitors. ▼

Contra Costa Rainbow Center to honor Margaret Walker next Friday night

by Terrance Boykin

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County (RCC) will honor Margaret Walker, health educator and public speaker on human sexuality and HIV testing, on Friday, June 26. Members and the board of directors of RCC are sponsoring the second annual event at the Sheraton Concord Hotel. The evening begins at 7 p.m., with a silent auction, raffle, and a rainbow souvenir table.

Currently a consultant on human sexuality and HIV health services, Walker's efforts continue to empower gay/lesbians/bisexual and transgender people to fight against bigotry in their community. Originally from Yorkshire, England, she settled in Northern California in the late eighties. Continuing work she performed in the U.K. as a HIV/AIDS and suicide-related crisis counselor, she was hired to build up the volunteer staff at the Pacific Center in Berkeley.

While fielding calls from all over the country for the Pacific Center crisis line, she became concerned about the high volume of calls from the underserved queer community in Contra Costa County. In her charming British accent she told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "There was a definite need for some grass roots support in the area. The area was just over the hill, but for young lesbian/gays/bisexual and transgender people there was a huge barrier."

Walker applied for a small

grant, which she obtained from United Way, and pioneered the Pacific Center satellite office in Walnut Creek. In 1991, through the office she began networking with already existing organizations in the area such as Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators (BANGLE), and the owners of gay bars.

Described as confident, optimistic, and unafraid of the criticism that she would ultimately face in the Republican, sleeping bedroom community, Jon Crovo, owner of Club 1220 in Walnut Creek and board member of RCC said, "she was the first to come into this community and introduce herself as an open lesbian. Margaret breaks down every stereotype, she's very friendly and warm, like a grandmother. People who you never thought would pay attention, listened to what she had to say."

Risking censure, Walker held forums of dialogue at high schools, churches, and universities. Within two years, the GLBT community began to strengthen, with the formation of youth groups, lesbian coming out, and men's support and discussion groups. Through her efforts as co-chair of the Contra Costa HIV/AIDS Consortium, she was able to coordinate services with the county's Department of Health Services, local hospitals, and related nonprofit agencies. From 1992 through 1996, as a member of the consortium's Education and Prevention Committee, she developed "training for



'Training for trainers' trainer Margaret Walker

pulled in so many volunteers. She has been so consistently dedicated, in spite of setbacks," said Melitta Rorty, fellow board member of RCC.

Tickets for the celebration and fundraiser are \$65 for RCC members and \$75 for nonmembers. Among the auction and raffle prizes are a trip to Seattle on Alaska Airlines, a three-night stay at a local bed and breakfast, a dinner for two at Scott's Seafood Restaurant, which include an evening at the theatre and a night's stay at the Concord Hilton Hotel.

Walker is one of the founding board members of RCC in Contra Costa County. Concerning the future of the queer movement, Walker told the *B.A.R.*, "I'm very optimistic and I think the younger generation is doing great, but it's still a struggle for them. We have made great strides, but with the doom and gloom of the religious right, we still have a long way to go in this country." Regarding laws that ensure basic freedoms for lesbians and gays, she said, "At the end of the day, we are all still minorities, and the most hated segment in society." □

trainers" based on the latest CDC data, to educate volunteers on HIV prevention and awareness, self esteem, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The honor award is in recognition of Walker's decade of service to a community sadly lacking in acceptance and support. "Her infectious enthusiasm is what

For more information about reservations, please call 925-210-0563.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222915
The following person(s) are doing business as Six of One Services, 242 Mt. Vernon Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cindy Six. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/19/98
MAY 28, JUNE 4, 11, 18, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223177
The following person(s) are doing business as Michael's Cleaner, 2235 Polk St SF CA 94109. This business is conducted by an husband and wife signed Pak, Song Yong. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/1/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/1/98
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223123
The following person(s) are doing business as Oakes and Associates, 5 Corbett Ave, SF, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert Oakes. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/29/98
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 222951
The following person(s) are doing business as Flower Power Landscaping and Gardening, 579 Noe, St SF, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Benjamin Todd Kelley. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 5/20/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/20/98
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223062
The following person(s) are doing business as Gay Places.Com, #48 Cayuga Ave, SF, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Green. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 5/26/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 5/27/98
JUNE 4, 11, 18, 25, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223149
The following person(s) are doing business as The National Joy Band, 1224 Castro St, SF, CA 94114-3232. John S. Bello, William B. Young 389 Howard Cl. South SF, CA 94080. Kevin C. Larson 2959 24th St. SF, CA 94110. Lawrence T. Heaton, 620 Showell St. SF, CA 94110. This business is conducted by an General Partnership. Signed Keith E. Lyle. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/1/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/05/98
JUNE 11, 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223300
The following person(s) are doing business as POIDOG Handyman Services 420 14th St, #3 SF, CA 94103-2303. This business is conducted by an individual signed Devin Navarro. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/05/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/05/98
JUNE 11, 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

In THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NUMBER 995808
In the Matter of the Application of Todd Roger Baker. For change of name. The application of Todd Roger Baker for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Todd Roger Baker has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Todd Mary Bern. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 28th day of July 1998, at 9:00 o'clock AM of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. Dated this day June 16, 1998.

JUNE 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223252
The following person(s) are doing business as Quixotic Consulting, 1390 Market St., #2828, SF, CA 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Quentin Dobras. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/04/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/04/98
JUNE 11, 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223300
The following person(s) are doing business as POIDOG Handyman Services 420 14th St, #3 SF, CA 94103-2303. This business is conducted by an individual signed Devin Navarro. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/05/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 6/05/98
JUNE 11, 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 223267
In THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NUMBER 995808
In the Matter of the Application of Todd Roger Baker. For change of name. The application of Todd Roger Baker for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Todd Roger Baker has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Todd Mary Bern. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 28th day of July 1998, at 9:00 o'clock AM of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. Dated this day June 16, 1998.
JUNE 18, 25 JULY 2, 1998

Gay Santa Rosa lawyer hosting hate crimes forum on Wednesday

by Cynthia Laird

Sonoma County law enforcement officials will be on hand at a forum in Santa Rosa this Wednesday, June 24 to address the North Bay's growing hate crimes problems. Openly gay Santa Rosa attorney Michael A. Fiumara, president of the Santa Rosa Democratic Club and a nationally acclaimed body-builder, organized the forum.

Fiumara said that Sonoma County Sheriff Jim Piccinini is slated to attend the forum. Piccinini recently appointed a 24-year veteran of the sheriff's department, Lieutenant Chuck Laver, as the department's first liaison to the gay and lesbian community. The historic move came in response to a rash of alleged hate crimes perpetrated against gay men in Guerneville and at the Russian River, as well as alleged rapes of lesbian victims in Sebastopol.

Sonoma County District Attorney Michael J. Mullins is also expected to attend the forum, Fiumara said. Mullins has already stated he will prosecute all hate crimes in the county, he added.

Fiumara is a civil rights and criminal defense lawyer who has previously represented several young men who were savagely

attacked and beaten merely because they are gay. He urged all gay and lesbian Sonoma County residents to attend the forum to let their views be known.

Additionally, it is Fiumara's opinion that the Santa Rosa Democratic Party, the so-called "party of homosexuals," according to the radical right, will be a supportive link to victims of gay and lesbian hate crimes at the state level. The county has a higher number of Democrats than Republicans registered to vote. "It is thus fortunate to have elected [state] Senator Mike Thompson, who has been very supportive of gay and lesbian rights, and the very popular, two-term Sonoma County Assemblywoman Valerie Brown," said Fiumara.

The forum is free to the general public. Those who wish to attend a catered buffet beforehand should arrive at 6:30 p.m.; the cost for the dinner is \$8 per person for adults, and \$6 for students and senior citizens. ▼

The forum starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, across the street from the county fairgrounds. For more information, call Michael Fiumara at (707) 571-8600.

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Q: What do Amanda Bearse, Ellen DeGeneres and Jodie Foster have in common? Stay tuned...

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Sleazy S.F. Sex Pics, Psychedelic Cult Film Meltdown: 'Films From the Cellar' at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.
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Amphibious baroque
Mark Morris' 'Platée' enchants at Berkeley fest.
page 46



New look at 'Old Times'
ACT's Carey Perloff on Harold Pinter's 1971 play.
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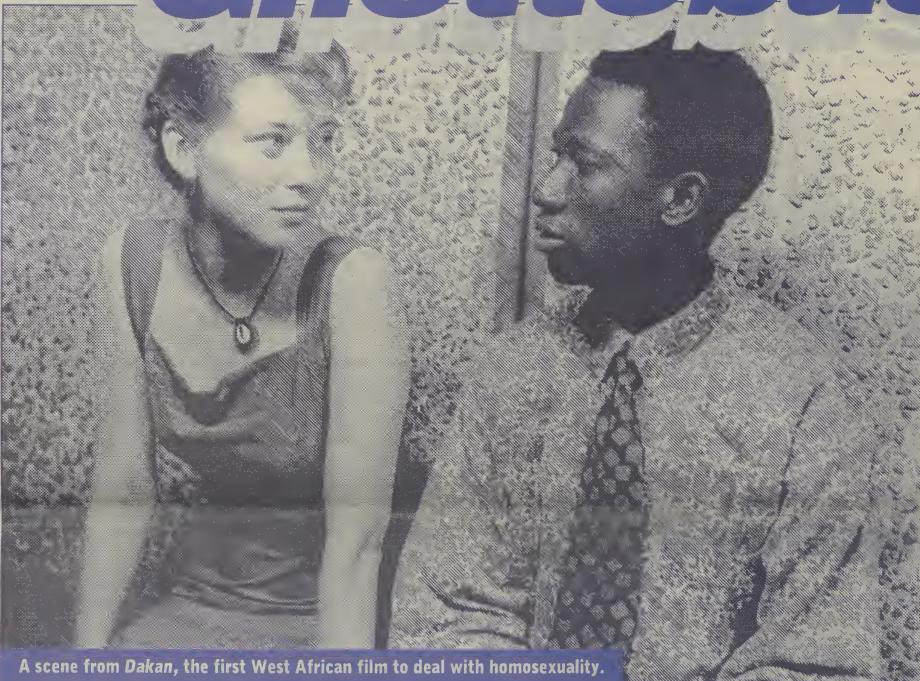
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 28 • No. 25 • 18 June 1998

1998 san francisco lesbian & gay film festival special

Ghettobusters

by Gary Morris



A scene from *Dakan*, the first West African film to deal with homosexuality.

There are encouraging signs in this year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (SFILGFF) that the ghetto is losing its grip. Many of the programs, both features (51) and shorts (230), resist easy pigeonholing, with the happy implication that the queer community's long-standing obsession with roles and labels may be starting to loosen up.

Breaking down the films into categories proved surprisingly difficult. For one thing, just as in real life, many of the characters in these works — fictional, real, or reconstructed — don't fit a precise, undeviating profile. In *Totally Confused*, for example, the resolutely straight male lead sleeps with his gay best friend in order to salvage their friendship. *The Brandon Teena Story* shows how two identities — biological male and self-constructed female — can coexist, if tortuously in this case, in one body. The title character in *Vera*, in defiance of biology and social strictures, demands the world acknowledge her as male. Many of the festival's signature films this year — *High Art*, *The Sticky Fingers of Time, Relax... It's Just Sex* — have strong pansexual aspects, and some, like the raunchy short *Pansexual Public Porn*, follow the sexual implications of polymorphous perversity to the far fringes.

Moving away from the monolith of identity politics makes it easier to survey the films in this festival for their aesthetic achievement, entertain-

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Lisa Cholodenko's High Art

The higher depths

by Erin Blackwell

The choice of Lisa Cholodenko's *High Art* to open the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival is going to annoy some people, namely any ticket-holding clean 'n' sober dykes in the market for some self-image enhancement. Addictive personalities more at peace with their Dionysian proclivities will find this trendy heroin-laced tragedy a highly watchable meditation on the yin-yangs of art 'n' commerce, sex 'n' drugs, and love 'n' death.

Top-billed Ally Sheedy plays antiheroine Lucy Berliner, a New York hipster junkie art photographer who walked away from success ten years before and is now lolling around an incredibly spacious apartment in drug-induced apathy. The scrawny, sour-puss butch is psychically overpowered by a rich bitch Jewish mother (Tammy Grimes) and a hophead German girlfriend, Greta (Patricia Clarkson). Both these significant others are strawberry blonde narcissists with a leech-like talent for clinging to, and sucking the vital energy from, their shared love object.

For all her thin-lipped crankiness, Sheedy delivers the film's most complex and compelling performance, locating the mysterious nexus of experience, reflection, and technique from which inspiration springs. She also establishes a real dyke archetype: the touchy, twitchy, sullen androgynous only a femme (or a mother) could love.

In a cameo that's kind of a clunker, Tammy
page 45 ▶



Radha Mitchell and Ally Sheedy in *High Art*.

Walter Thompson

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By the time this week's ish is in the news racks (while there still are news racks), the 22nd San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival will be unleashed upon the general populace. From the Opening Night festivities surrounding the screening of **Lisa Cholodenko's** *High Art* to the Closing Night feature, **P. J. Castellaneta's** *Relax ... It's Just Sex* (but how can we relax when you have your tripod up our aperture?), our film reviewers, social butterflies, and shutterbugs will be covering the Festival every frame of the way. Watch this space for the kind of greasy footage that usually winds up on the cutting-room floor.

One of the Festival's featured films almost didn't make it to the screen because of rampant homophobia and narrow-mindedness at two of Tinseltown's biggest film labs. Festival director **Michael Lumpkin** told us the tale of independent film *Hard* and its hardships in post-production. Seems that when indie-film veterans **John Huckert** and **John Matkowsky** took their movie about a gay serial killer and a closeted gay cop to Deluxe Hollywood, the nation's largest film lab, a man named **Steve Jackson** told them, "We can no longer work on your film. It is pornographic, and we do not work on pornographic films." Jackson claimed that some of the lab



Out There

workers were spooked by scenes of men kissing, and exclaimed, "There are women who work here!" Such tender flowers!

The filmmakers' second choice, Technicolor, also refused to make prints of *Hard*. In true Hollywood fashion (spineless), one Technicolor employee told Huckert, "Forget it. If *Deluxe* won't do it, we won't do it."

Fortunately, Huckert and Matkowsky eventually found a film lab with technicians whose delicate sensibilities weren't violated by their thriller's subject matter. Look, we're not saying *Hard* is a potential *Citizen Kane* or anything. And from what we can glean from the advance materials and a glimpse at a clip, it's scenes of graphic violence, not to mention its very premise

(here's a new idea: homo serial killer!) turn us all the way off. But that doesn't mean some prudish lily-livered straight film-wonk morons get to censor what's available to us queers for display up on the Silver Screen. We'd almost say the lab technicians' having to live in L.A. is punishment enough. But certainly no queer filmies ought to patronize either Deluxe Hollywood or Technicolor for the foreseeable future.

Flower power

By all accounts, the June wed-ding of **Kathy Fenker** and **Larry Mullens** was an affair to remember. This blessed union has been a red-letter date on the underground art-scene calendar ever since Fenker, of **Enrique** fame, and Mullens, drummer for **Iggy Pop's** band, announced their intended betrothal. The nuptials, in the regal Green Room of the War Memorial, were a phosphorescent vision in bright fuchsia pink, pink being the color of the bridesmaids' dresses. By bridesmaids we mean **Jason** and **D'Arcy** of **Enrique**, as well as the bride's two biological sisters. The bride was dressed in white, with sequins and veil — "She was flawless," says our eyewitness. "In a room full of people dressed to the nines, she was a ten."

The groom was something to see as well, in hot pink tux, tails, and top hat. A member of the wedding party saw fit to wear a tutu ... and nothing else. The band played **Bolero**. **Ravel** rolled over.



Ggreg Taylor

Judi Parks

The high suspense of who would catch the bride's bouquet turned quickly into horror when, amid a forest of girly pink sleeves flailing about, the bundle of fleurs was soundly snatched by **Ggreg Taylor** in his favored Scary Clown drag. An unsettling sight indeed, especially if you're a young girl hoping to catch the floral missile. Even if you're not that young, and even if you're not a girl.

West of Eden

There we were at a press luncheon at Elroy's, a new combination pool hall/yuppie restaurant/watering hole in what was once a warehouse at Beale and Folsom. The kind folks from the West Hollywood Convention & Visitors Bureau were treating, and they were full of boasts about their 1.9-square mile city in the middle of Los Angeles, which encompasses **Wolfgang Puck's** Spago Beverly Hills (go figure), the humongous Pacific Design Center (aka "The Blue Whale"), and about a trillion antique shops, galleries, and chic little spots. Quite a queer little fiefdom: little wonder one in three residents is gay. There are the perennial WeHo gay clubs — Revolver, Rage, Mickey's — and the rock 'n' roll clubs on the Sunset Strip like the Viper Room, site of **River Phoenix's** untimely death. You might like to know the club in the Viper's space was once known as **Filthy McNasty's**.

We were more interested in chatting with reps from the hotels, such as **Ian Schrager's** designed-to-the-teeth Mondrian on Sunset. We learned quite a few trade secrets, including that the Hyatt West Hollywood is home to gay rock 'n' roll legend **Little Little**

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THEATRE

'Danny Scheie's Traffic School' Dangerous curves

by Richard Dodds

The English language hasn't yet devised a word that could sum up Danny Scheie's new one-man show. Not even a necklace of adjectives would make a dent in describing what Scheie has wrought at Josie's Cabaret.

The official name of the 60-minute production is *Danny Scheie's Traffic School*, but that doesn't help much. The detours from that concept are so numerous and severe that the title could as easily be *Danny Scheie's Eggplant Lasagna*, or *Danny Scheie's I Hate Audrey Hepburn Fan Club*.

Actually, that last title is getting closer to the meat of the matter. At one point, with no transition that I could discern, Scheie was off on a riff about the biggest evil ever visited on mankind. It was when that "lip-synching, part-stealing UNICEF Nazi" Audrey Hepburn got the role in *My Fair Lady* that belonged to Julie Andrews. This somehow evolved into a tribute to Mary Martin, Cole Porter, and NAMBLA, with Scheie, stripped down to revealing leotards, barking out a down-and-dirty version

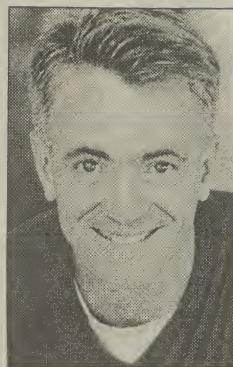
of *My Heart Belongs to Daddy*.

Other topics include that "selfish hag" Mother Teresa, the summer Shakespeare racket, and heterosexuals. Indeed, Scheie is on a mission to skewer straight pretensions, hang-ups and inadequacies, with just enough over-the-top outrageousness to keep it in the company of comedy.

Scheie has built up a considerable reputation as an accomplished director and versatile performer, and his credits range from *Picnic* in Marin to *The Last Hairdresser* at Theatre Rhinoceros. For *Traffic School*, Scheie turned over the direction to Mark Rucker, who recently directed *The Birds* at Berkeley Rep. But there is nothing mainstream or slick about this collaboration, which maintains energy over its uneven journey by its unpredictable edginess.

Musical accompaniment is by Don Seaver, who winds up in a jockstrap by the end of the show. Don't ask. ▶

Danny Scheie's Traffic School will run at Josie's Cabaret through June 21. Tickets are \$10 and \$12. Call 861-7933.



Danny Scheie

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'Last Sunday in June' As Gay Pride turns

by Richard Dodds

The last thing the world needs," says a character in *Last Sunday in June*, "is another faggoty one-man show." But Leon Acord, the author and star of the new one-man show, puts these potentially incriminating words in the mouth of a particularly unlikeable character.

That character is a self-absorbed, deeply closeted soap opera star who takes sanctuary from "Fag Pride Week" in a downtown San Francisco hotel bar. The other main character through whom we experience Pride Day events is also something of an outsider: a Middle-America mother trying to come to terms with her son's sexuality.

In fact, even the gay characters that Acord depicts are out of step with the parade. One is a pregnant lesbian marching with a tiny anti-



Leon Acord

abortion contingent. Another is a man tired of living with AIDS who has missed the parade completely as he prepares to kill himself.

But with the exception of the

page 37 ▶

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ACT's Carey Perloff on Pinter No labels, please

by Richard Dodds

Laywright Harold Pinter, whose affairs with women have made headlines, is obviously straight, right? "He would laugh to hear you say that," said Carey Perloff, artistic director of American Conservatory Theater, who knows Pinter personally and his works intimately. "He's so suspicious of any labeling."

However, Perloff did label the Pinter plays she chose to close out ACT's season as his "most homoerotic works." Perloff is directing *Old Times* at the Geary Theater, while *The Collection* is being presented on a bill with *The Lovers* at New Langton Arts by ACT's M.F.A. program.

"I always wanted to do them together," Perloff said during a recent interview. "I think doing that will shed an interesting light on the plays."

In *Old Times*, first staged in 1971, a married couple is visited by a female friend from the past whom the husband now suspects was something more than just a friend, and whose presence suddenly creates plays for power in this new triangle. In *The Collection*, which dates back to 1962, it's more of a rectangle, as a husband tries to determine if his wife had a fling with a man who appears to be coupled with another man.

"Pinter recognizes that all relationships are sexual in some way," Perloff said, "and all relationships are about power. I don't think he cares about passing judgment on sexuality."

But according to Perloff, Pinter was horrified by a production of *Old Times* directed by Luchino Visconti in which a lesbian relationship was explicitly depicted. "The play needs to be about shifting sands," Perloff said. "For Deely [the suspicious husband in *Old Times*], the suggestion that something happened is more upsetting than if it were labeled. Most plays try to neatly sum up a relationship in a kind of therapy for the audience. For Pinter, reality is much more complex than that."

Gay appeal

Perloff said she chose *Old Times*

as her first Pinter play at ACT at least partly to appeal to the gay and lesbian audiences that she has been courting since taking over the artistic reins in 1992. "When I first came here, the theater didn't have any connection to the gay community," she said. "I have a lot of neighbors who are gay, and they said to me, 'Why are you doing *Angels in America* when ACT is known as a homophobic theater?' I've worked very hard on that."

But because she knows many theatergoers are wary of Pinter, Perloff also chose *Old Times* because she considers it one of his most accessible plays. "Somehow," she said, "American productions of his work have led people to believe he is incomprehensible. But there is nothing to get. It is life being experienced. People don't need to be afraid."

Perloff is not afraid of Pinter, but she admitted she was "awestruck" when she met the playwright during her tenure as

the artistic director of the Classic Stage Company in New York. "This is the writer who made me want to be in theater," she said. "He is a complex, fascinating and intimidating man."

Although she has had numerous conversations with Pinter, Perloff said, "I wouldn't presume to guess his sexuality." But she did note that Pinter "is attracted to strong and powerful friends, and I think he has had very close bonds with men that have had an erotic component, or he wouldn't be able to tap into that for these characters. They don't feel like types, and something in him lets him understand them." ▼

Old Times will run at the Geary Theater through July 12. Tickets are \$14-\$51. *The Collection* and *The Lover* will run at New Langton Arts through June 20. Tickets are \$10. Call 749-2228.

Queer calvacade

Exciting events just keep coming in the San Francisco Queer Arts Festival, which this week continues with a reading by Anglo-American poet **Thom Gunn**, at 2 p.m. at SOMAR, 934 Brannan; and *Homo Solo* performances by **Doug Holsclaw** (right), **Sabrina Alonso**, and **Marvin White**, **Canyon Sam**, **Max McBride**, and **True Margrit**. Fri.-Sun. June 19-21, 8 p.m. at SOMAR. Tickets are \$10-15, sliding scale.

Meanwhile, the show of queer self-portraiture, *Face*, continues at SOMAR Gallery as the inaugural exhibition of the Queer Cultural Center. Curators **Rudy Lemcke** and **Lenore Chinn** want to present queers as "an array of unique individuals," and artists from **Arthur Tress** to **Enrique (Kico) Govantes**, from **Greg Day** to **Cathy Cade**, certainly seem to fill that bill. Call the Queer Arts Festival hotline at 552-7709. ▼



FILM FESTIVAL

Michael Alig: 'Party Monster' Totally fucked up

by Robert Julian

Michael Alig's life is the worst-case scenario envisioned by every homophobic parent with a gay son. Alig did it all: sex, drugs, cross-dressing, wild parties, and eventually murder. *Party Monster*, Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's documentary about the rise and fall of Manhattan's premier "Club Kid," is an engrossing, disturbing, and vaguely terrifying film. Young queers whose aspirations to fabulosity lead them to drug abuse and disco could use this film as aversion therapy.

Anthony Haden-Guest in his 1997 release, *Last Party*, details the meteoric rise of Studio 54 and the subsequent death of the Manhattan disco scene. Near the end of his book, Haden-Guest mentions Michael Alig and his very young cohorts as the crowd that inherited what was left of the Manhattan

as a busboy, and started to party. Alig's prelude to murder were several years of drug-induced nights at Discoteca and Limelight.

Before and after

Filmmakers Bailey and Barbato conduct a lengthy videotape interview with Alig three months before his arrest for murder; they also interview him in prison after his arrest. In addition, *Party Monster* incorporates video footage of Alig doing drugs home, partying at the discos, or hosting the popular "outlaw parties" he would throw in public places like subway stations or the McDonalds in Times Square. Stills, interviews, and outtakes from Club Kids' appearances on television talk shows round out the cinematic palate effectively employed by Bailey and Barbato. Quick cuts, homemade titles, and house music add to the appropriately chaotic, out-of-control tone of *Party Monster*. Then, of course, there is the murder.

Regarding his roommate Angel, Alig casually remarks, "He was a copycat, and so we killed him. He was one of those copycats that we hate. I killed Angel... ."

club scene in the mid '80s and killed it (in this case, both literally and figuratively). With the megadiscos gone, the bridge-and-tunnel crowd could no longer hope for a glimpse of Liza, Halston, Mick, or Bianca as they tripped the light fantastic until the wee hours of the morning. Enter the Club Kids. They were the self-invented latter-day court jesters, a group of trendy misfits who gravitated to the Manhattan club scene from the hinterlands of America. Their wildly costumed sideshow kept the crowd amused, and the few remaining venues packed — at least for a while. Apres Alig, le deluge.

In her *Party Monster* interview, Alig's mother traces the emergence of Michael's larcenous side back to grade school. Every day after school, he would make his mother take him to discount houses, where he would buy candy bars, five for a dollar. He would take them home and mark them up to a dollar each, stuff them into a shoebox, and re-sell them the next day at school. He became known as the "candy man" until the school principal made him shut down his resale business. But the seeds of a successful scam artist were already sown when this Midwestern boy headed for the Big Apple, got a job

In his pre-arrest video interview, Alig is cute in a Dennis the Menace meets David Cassidy sort of way. Small and thin (heroin will keep you that way), Alig affects lots of eye shadow and glitter, and presents himself in a disturbingly familiar, silly gayboy manner. Regarding his former roommate and drug dealer, Angel Melendez, Alig casually remarks, "He was a copycat, and so we killed him. He was one of those copycats that we hate. I killed Angel..." Then Alig stops himself and tosses off the half-hearted explanation that his flippant confession was just one of those things that always gets him in trouble. Shortly after this interview, Alig was arrested for the murder of Melendez, whose dismembered body was found floating in a box in the East River.

Producer/directors Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey are also responsible for RuPaul's sensational debut video, *Supermodel*, and the treacly *Drop Dead Gorgeous*, an HBO documentary on the unfunny HIV-positive comedian Steve Moore that played last year at the SF Gay/Lesbian Film Fest. But with *Party Monster*, it seems Barbato and Bailey have struck gold. They have written the script for a feature-length production of Michael Alig's story

which seems headed for the big screen. It won't be a pretty picture; but as with their current documentary, I dare you to look away. ▶

Party Monster plays June 20 at 4:30 p.m. at the Castro Theater.

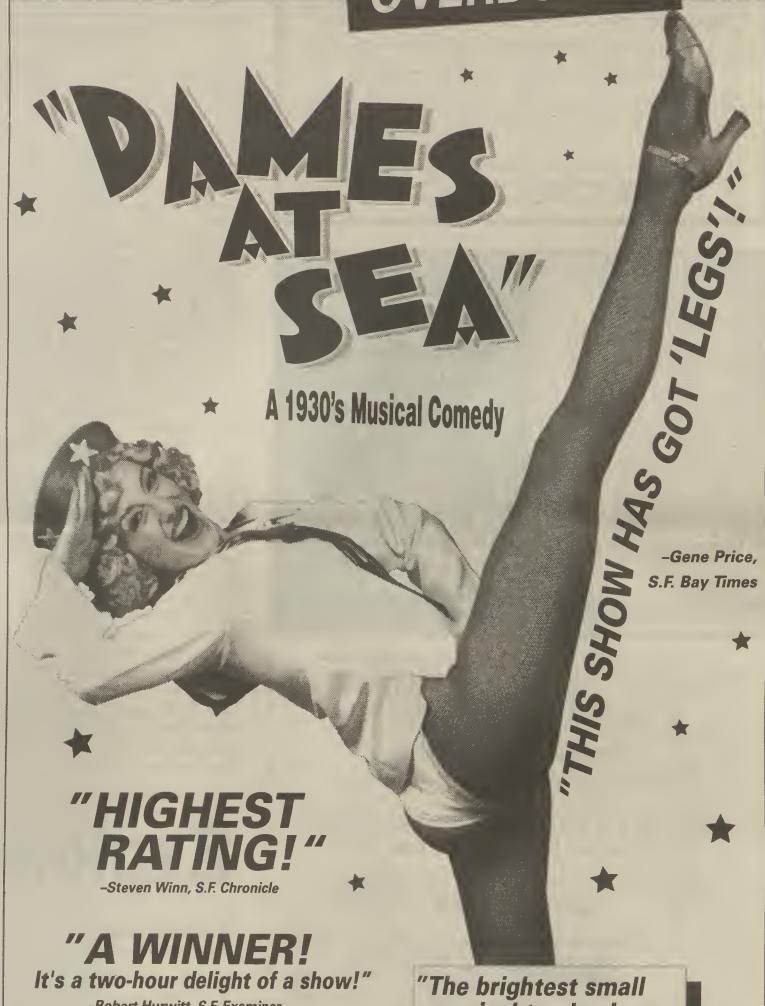


Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's *Party Monster*.

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Last Sunday

◀ page 35

soap opera star, whose major but annoying presence is mostly tangential, all the characters, including those we never see, are somehow connected, at times in unexpected fashions. It's one of the appealing qualities of Acord's ambitious effort.

Acord is a versatile and personable performer, but not quite the expert chameleon that can bring a succession of characters to uncanny life. If he were, it would

help the script when it doesn't ring so true or when it does ring too familiarly.

Near the end of the 75-minute piece, the mother delivers a summing-up plea for tolerance ("If you're gonna judge a person, it should be about things they can control") that might have had more impact on the last Sunday in June, 1978. ▶

Last Sunday in June will run in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros through June 27. Tickets are \$15. Call 861-5079.

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Expendable

The life and death of Brandon Teena

by Robert Julian

Although taken from life, *The Brandon Teena Story* has antecedents in both Greek tragedy and carnival sideshows. It is a simple story, maddeningly cliché in its predictability. In 1993, a young man who describes himself to others as a "hermaphrodite" or as having a "sexual identity crisis" attempts to create a life for himself in rural Nebraska. For his efforts, he is rewarded with ridicule, humiliation, rape, and ultimately death. Documentary filmmakers Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir employ simple, straightforward storytelling that highlights the incredible melancholy of Brandon Teena's short life.

The efforts of Muska and Olafsdottir are somewhat hampered by their lack of live-action footage of Brandon. Their film relies primarily on videotaped interviews with Brandon's friends and family, the local police, and Brandon's murderers. But still photographs of Brandon as the young Teena, as well as an audiotape interview with Brandon shortly after his rape, illustrate the tragic circumstances under which an individual is robbed of self-respect, individuality, and life.

Born and raised as female, Teena Brandon later adopts Brandon Teena as her male identity. Brandon's teen years involve enough persecution that he leaves his family in Lincoln and heads south for the small Nebraska town of Falls City, which would become his undoing. Unfortunately, Brandon arrives with a record of arrests for petty larceny (primarily for kiteboarding) and a reputation as quite a ladies' man. In fact, his ambiguous genitalia did not seem to diminish his success with women. Many of them testify that "Brandon knew how to please a woman." He was,



Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir's *The Brandon Teena Story*

by all accounts, an aggressive, tender, conscientious, and attentive lover whose intersex status did not matter to most of the women he pursued. In fact, there is very little clarity among his lovers on the status of his gender transitioning. One woman says that he had breasts removed and some former lovers explain that they never saw his genitalia. The men who rape Brandon testify to the presence of a vagina.

In the depressed rural town of Falls City, the handsome Brandon gets heavily involved with Lana, but when her former boyfriend John Lotter and his friend Tom Nissen find out Brandon's secret, they kidnap and rape him. When Brandon tries to press rape charges, his intersex status and his past encounters with the law in Lincoln cause the police to dismiss his allegations. The perpetrators of the crime, despite previous criminal records, are simply interviewed and released, but they soon come back to permanently silence their accuser. In the process, they murder two equally innocent bystanders as well.

Although Muska and Olafsdottir's film may seem to be about gender issues, it informs more universal themes. What is the price of being different? What is the obligation of society to those who do not conform to sex role stereotypes? What is the perceived (or actual) connection between homosexuality and gender issues? The filmmakers wisely raise these questions by induction, and elicit some revealing responses through thoughtful questioning of their subjects, particularly the local police. Except for the presence of the always-insufferable Kate Bornstein, the filmmakers keep the level of discourse on a dispassionate level, which only adds to the overwhelming sadness of *The Brandon Teena Story*. It is somehow strangely unsatisfying to learn that the two murderers were both convicted and that one awaits the electric chair. Justice, in the face of such a heinous triple murder, is a concept impossible to contemplate. ▼

The Brandon Teena Story plays June 23 at 7 p.m. at the Castro Theater

Exploring boys' shorts

by David Lamble

A record number of short films at this year's largest ever Frameline Festival highlights the difficulty of keeping up with an increasingly sophisticated cadre of queer filmmakers from all over the English-speaking world. Having viewed up to five dozen short films spread over 16 festival programs, I can say there is something for almost every taste. This year's offerings include outstanding programs on emotionally charged issues surrounding bisexuality, queer youth, and Asian men seeking Asian boyfriends, as well as expanding definitions of erotica, and the ongoing questions of grief and survival.

Five funny and sexy shorts highlight the ever-popular *Fun in Bay Shorts* program (6/20, 11:30 a.m., Castro). In *My Ex*, a very neurotic man becomes comically obsessed by the dire warning of his ex-therapist. *Your Kiss* by San Franciscan Brad Robinson is an erotic rondo that demonstrates what some of the city's men like



A scene from *Your Kiss*.

doing on the roof. In *Mrs. Craddock's Complaint*, the location of an outdoor restroom causes an Australian matron to ponder the cause of a daily traffic jam on her otherwise bucolic street. A country roadhouse is the scene of a darkly funny if bloodcurdling sexual exorcism in *Lycanthrophobia*. Finally, Dean Slotar's *The Absolution of Anthony* probes the limits of what a horny teenager might

tell an overly helpful priest: also on *The Boy Next Door* program (6/23, 4 p.m., Castro).

Last year, the festival presented a film based on the popular French artists Pierre and Gilles. This year, the program of international shorts, *Worldly Affairs* (6/25, 9 p.m., Roxie), kicks off with the Pierre and Gilles-influenced *Sailor* by Belgian filmmaker Bavo Defurne. In *Sailor*, a young boy's bathtub fantasies dramatize a crush on an elusive seaman. The program features a delightfully high ratio of nude bath/shower scenes. In *The Exchange*, the burgeoning Irish gay scene is explored when a young hitchhiker discovers that he may have gotten the wrong ride home. In *DIY*, a romantic young British tearoom queen evokes the ghosts of playwright Joe Orton and his lover/murderer Kenneth Halliwell.

Haunting 'Breath'

Christos Dimas is a Greek-born filmmaker whose short film *Sky Full of Stars* was one of the first films about AIDS in Greece.

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'Queer Cartoons II'

Superqueers and dollfaces



Dirty Baby Does Fire Island

by Gary Morris

Cartoons have always been a rich repository of queer subtext. How else to explain all those too-close buddies and their serious lack of female companionship? (The big joke about Superman is that he's more devoted to his "pal" Jimmy Olsen than to poor, frustrated Lois Lane.) Then there's the endless parade of children without parents or with questionable origins — who exactly is Swee' Pea's mother in those *Popeye* cartoons? Or his father, for that matter? And what about all those cartoons where the adults — parents — appear only in fragmented form, unseen past the knee? You'd almost think heterosexual reproduction didn't exist.

Since cartoons are well-positioned to ridicule and even repudiate hetero norms, the idea of

"queer cartoons" seems almost redundant. Why bother, when the mainstream culture offers without blinking a pair of "superheroes" like Batman and Robin living happily in what looks like a homo marriage? Because dragging subtext to the surface can be fun, as this year's exceptional *Queer Cartoons II* program shows.

The program opens with a superb send-up of the trashy '60s superhero cartoon, *The Ambiguously Gay Duo*, directed by J.J. Sedelmaier, "Ace" and "Gary," two muscular costumed queen crime-fighters who drive a giant pink dickmobile. In the first episode, "Queen of Terror," the two battle an evil space seductress who fails to get a rise from the boys. In a brilliant touch, Sedelmaier lays a laugh track over the show that erupts into hysterics whenever Ace puts Gary on the ass with a "Well done!" or the police commissioner makes a lewd

crack about their lifestyle. Everyone — even an unseen audience — seems to be in on the gay joke.

In the second episode, "Safety Tips," Ace and Gary thoughtfully show three teenage boys how to cross the street (holding hands) and shower (holding hands), and how to plug in a lamp (Ace positions himself behind Gary as if ready for butt-fucking). The teens stand in for puzzled straight audiences, arguing over whether or not the duo are "fruits" and looking appalled when the two sashay arm in arm across the street.

Best buddy

More cartoon-based fun comes in Lewis Klahr's masterful *Pony Glass*, about Superman's best buddy, Jimmy Olsen. In paper cut-outs Klahr transforms the tormented redheaded into an Ed Wood lookalike cocksucker, complete with various wigs, bras, and panties; puts him on both top and bottom in hardcore sex footage; and has him enact a series of sexually charged psychodramas set in 1950s comic-book environments. *Pony Glass* is a perfect argument for reintroducing shorts to regular theatrical exhibition.

Not all of the shorts in this program are based on cartoon characters. Many of them use another childhood standby, the doll, for their critique. Hazel Grian's *Baby-Cue* corrals every imaginable doll from the last few decades — Barbies, kewpies, Betsy-Wetts — into a series of increasingly bizarre settings. Giant, blank-faced dolls with dirty faces lumber like mini-Godzillas through gaudy, eerie landscapes made of M&M houses, stampeding herds of "My Pretty Ponies," and doll parts roasting on spits. More camp than queer, *Baby-Cue* is a disturbing look at the dark side of these allegedly innocent toys.

In Corky Quackenbush's *Switch Your Ride*, an assortment of violent or victimized Barbies and Kens do just that. While Ken defends their dream home against a drunken intruder-doll, Barbie runs off with her Harley-riding, shaved-head, leather-clad girlfriend. By the end of the film's two minutes, Ken and his male friend have paired off, too. The same director's *Sex Toy Story* amusingly recounts the fight between an animated dildo, whip, blow-up doll, and leather mask, over which one is their mistress's favorite. Both films showcase Quackenbush's sophisticated use of state-of-the-art Pixar-style animation.

One of the most ambitious films in this program concerns yet another doll, this time the hapless title character in Todd Downing's *Dirty Baby Does Fire Island*. It's more like *Fire Island Does Dirty Baby*, as this pitiful dime-store doll with a permanently shocked expression and frantically fast movements encounters one terrifying queer tableau after another, from muscular half-naked weightlifters to coke-snorting queens, to naked, sweating faggots fucking in bed. The comic-pathetic *Dirty Baby* occupies the same psychic space as *Saturday Night Live's* Mr. Bill; her horrified reactions and desperate movements as she gets drenched in coke dust or stoned from a rolling bottle of poppers are just as wondrous to behold. ▼

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CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A1455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts <350/mm³. Patients had received at least six months of zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered at daily doses of 40 mg BID for patients weighing >60 kg, and 20 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 622 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 232/mm³. The mean duration of prior zidovudine treatment was 88 weeks (range 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline; 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic.

Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

Table 1 -- Incidence of Disease Progression *	
First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%
12 months	10.4%
18 months	18.5%
24 months	26.6%
36 months	31.6%

* Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICTIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19.4% of 24 percent of the 19.4% of the patients advanced disease who received the two doses of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In contrast, with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients.

Peripheral neuropathy is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve rapidly, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be used in this patient population, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to take the full course of ZERIT as prescribed.

Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this numbness may not be present in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may cause peripheral neuropathy.

Carers of patients receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown. The risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Marked increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation assay, or the *Chlorouracil*-mammalian cell forward gene mutation assay, nor was it without moderate activity in the *Salmonella* microsome mutagenicity assay. In the *in vitro* mouse lymphoma microtumorigen test, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosomal aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/L), without causing an increase in sister chromatid exchange. The treated lymphoma cells showed an increase in the number of micronuclei (250 µg/L, without evidence of metabolic activation).

* The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-900) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at doses of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on *C_{max}*) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Teratology: *C_{max}*: Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on *C_{max}*) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and no evidence of teratogenicity observed. The incidence of cleft palate, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (within 4 days of birth) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in mice found no teratogenic effect transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration of fetal tissue approached one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers:

Studies in lactating mothers demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk.

Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be counseled to consider nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infant and to seek postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use:

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data from pharmacokinetic studies in pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic studies in adults.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 9 months to 15 years; weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BD regimens. The mean SD absorption was 0.09 to 0.10, and the mean peak plasma concentration (*C_{max}*) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose with single and multiple doses.

For a 10 mg/kg oral infusion (n=21), the mean SD volume of distribution was 18.9 ± 9.7 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples taken from 0.06 to 0.105 µg/L, areas ranging from 2 to 4 hours post-dose (mean range = 0.076 to 0.095 µg/L). CSF concentrations ranged from 15% to 125% (mean = 50% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour.

Stavudine apparent clearance was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance in the urine was 34.5% ± 10.5% of the total apparent oral clearance.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dose for pediatric patients weighing 30 kg is 20 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the same dose as an adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2).

Marked elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2 Periperal Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

		%
Study A1455-019	Parallel Track Program	
ZERIT	ZERIT	
(40 mg BID)	(40 mg BID)	
(200 mg TID)	(200 mg TID)	
(n=412)	(n=402)	
Total	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	4
Total	13	4
	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials¹

Adverse Events	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	%
Headache	54	49	
Chills/Fever	50	51	
Diarrhea	40	43	
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44	
Abdominal Pain	34	27	
Malaise	32	35	
Insomnia	29	31	
Anorexia	19	22	
Allergic Reaction	9	8	
Paroxysms	3	2	

¹ This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

² Includes all clinical complaints.

³ Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities¹

Lab Tests (units)	Study A1455-019 ²		%
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	
AST (SGOT) (>5 x ULN ³)	11	10	
ALT (SGPT) (>5 x ULN)	13	11	
Bilirubin (>10 x ULN)	2	2	
Anemia (>8 g/dL)	-	3	
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9	
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3	
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13	
This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.			
Medication prepared for patients who were laboratory evaluations were performed.			
Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.			
ULN = upper limit of normal.			

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdose include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Table 5

Product	Capsule	Markings on Capsule (In Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964	15	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965	20	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange & dark red	BMS 1966	30	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	40	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, at 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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FILM FESTIVAL

'Queer Innovators' Personal visions

by Gary Morris

In James Broughton's *Hermes Bird*, a seven-minute close-up of a penis in various stages of arousal, the filmmaker reads a line from one of his poems: "This is the secret that will not stay hidden." The six-part *Queer Innovators* series in this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, of which *Hermes Bird* is a part, is making sure the secret — the queer contribution to experimental film for the last seven decades — doesn't stay hidden.

Broughton's 1979 phallic paean stresses the primal power of sexuality, but such themes had to be cleverly masked in earlier works mining the same territory. Jean Cocteau's *Blood of a Poet* predates Broughton by 50 years, but is equally lyrical, if less single-minded, in its sensually surreal tableaux of beautiful, martyred, half-naked men. Freud's comment that watching the film was "like looking through a keyhole at a man undressing" still applies to Cocteau's very personal vision.

The infamous *Lot in Sodom*, directed by James Sibley Watson and Melville Webber, mingles Biblical kitsch, mock-damnation im-

ages, and again beautifully partially clad men, including one seen naked from behind, in its then-shocking visualization of a well-known Bible story. The filmmakers' use of multiple images of their male subjects, in a kind of radical "smearing" technique, is a telling example of the difficulty at the time of "fixing" the homosexual image. Without being completely overt, Kenneth Anger's *Fireworks* (1947) moves into more transgressive territory with its images of fetishized sexuality and a sailor's erection that erupts like a roman candle. Maya Deren's forceful psychic landscapes in *Meshes of the Afternoon* (1943) were extremely influential in validating the transposition of inner realities — which would include gay and lesbian realities — to the screen.

More recent queer filmmakers owe a debt to these predecessors for making it possible to unabashedly integrate their sexuality into their work. Anie Stanley's brief, scintillating *Easy Garden* (1994) offers its own brand of lesbian fireworks in compelling images of cotton candy swirling on a stick. Busby Berkeley semi-nude women in formation, and dazzling close-ups of female finger-

A scene from Jean Genet's *Un Chant D'Amour*, part of *Queer Innovators*

fucking. Jennifer Reeder's *Clitomatic* (1995) features "White Trash Girl" in an unapologetic anti-male, anti-maternal camp assault. Barbara Hammer has described her *Dyketactics* (1974) as "an erotic lesbian commercial ... a coming-out film, celebrating what it was like to make love to a woman." With its 110 lesbian images in a mere four minutes, *Dyketactics* (1974) is also a fascinating artifact of the lesbian separatist movement — historian Raymond Murray recalls that "Hammer attempted to restrict initial screenings of the film to women." In *Gently Down the Stream* (1981), Su Friedrich invokes a series of lesbian dreamscapes and applies a written commentary across striking black-and-white imagery. ▼

Daily life as a kind of suffocating dream is the subject of Chantal Akerman's 3+ hour masterpiece, *Jeanne Dielman* (1975), starring Delphine Seyrig. Akerman, one of the great filmmakers working today, has proven problematic to those who wish to pigeonhole, if not assimilate her, because she's refused to be ghettoized as a "lesbian director." It's surely good news that she's allowed *Jeanne Dielman* to be shown in this year's festival, having pulled other of her films from gay festivals in the past. The fact that this epic about the agonizingly slow breakdown of a middle-class woman is almost impossible to see theatrically and is not available on video makes it — like much of the *Queer Innovators* programs — essential viewing. ▼

HBO's 'Dragtime'

The Girlene factor

by Robert Julian

For sheer goofiness and all-around good humor, it's unlikely anything at the film festival will surpass *Dragtime*, a 70-minute documentary directed by Patti Kaplan for HBO. Kaplan gathers the usual suspects (minus RuPaul) for what is billed as a serious look at burning questions like, "How do they do it? Why do they do it?" and "How do they get that cleavage?" Get outta heah. *Dragtime* is about high camp, high heels, high hair, and high drama — all played for laughs. A stroll down the raison d'être path would send this film straight to hell. Fortunately, that doesn't happen.

Lady Bunny, Charles Busch, Lypsinka, Varla Jean Merman, Charlie Brown, and the now-re-

tired Charles Pierce all strut their stuff on stage across the country from Atlanta to New York, Philadelphia to Los Angeles. And oh, my — they certainly have stuff to strut. Along the way, the performances are interspersed with interviews with the main subjects of the documentary. The occasional attempt to associate cross-dressing with the history of the world and the rise or fall of Western civilization gets appropriately crushed under the weight of simple, trenchant observations like the one made by Jem Jensen, "It's just about dressing up." However, Lady Bunny, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, pulls off a minor coup with the remark, "The founding fathers of our country wore wigs, so I do feel we're carrying on a very rich American tradition."

There are lots of curious facts

dropped along the sequined road to dragdom, none more amusing than Varla Jean Merman's confession that he grew up with a father who was an FBI agent and a mother who was a psychic. "I didn't get away with anything in high school!" He more than makes up for that with his big-busted female chanteuse, Varla Jean Merman, the alleged illegitimate daughter of Ethel Merman and Ernest Borgnine. Varla Jean, who often appears in San Francisco at Josie's Cabaret, is a delight.

Filmmaker Patti Kaplan does a great job of finding the right mix between onstage and offstage personas, big drag extravaganzas and little clubs. Kaplan works the dressing rooms, the footlights, New Orleans' Mardi Gras, the gay parades, and the streets of New York. She even follows the girls, all in high

Patti Kaplan's *Dragtime*

drag, on a shopping and luncheon date through Manhattan. Just watching these big-titted, big-haired apparitions emerging from taxicabs is worth the price of admission. *Dragtime* is a colorful romp through a former subculture that has become increasingly mainstream, and it's destined to be one of the major crowd-pleasers of the festival. What to wear? You go, girl! ▼

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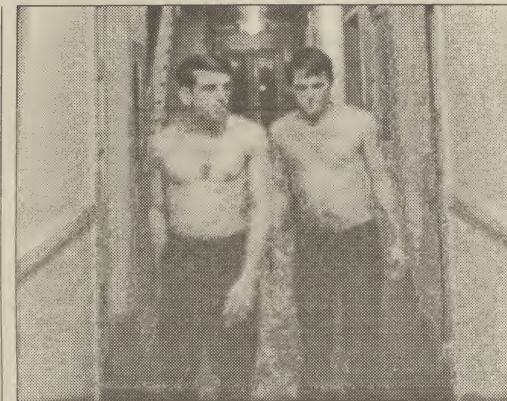
'Trash Kings of Cult Cinema' Sleaze and psychedelia

by John Blanco

An accurate reflection of societal attitudes towards sex and drugs in the late '60s-early '70s won't be found in the mainstream Hollywood films of that era. The comedies reduced the issues to who-put-what-in-the-brownies? or Who's-that-girl-in-my-bed? type jokes, while most of the dramas now seem excessively whitewashed and polite. To get some sense of the prurience, fear and hysteria that surrounded the sexual revolution and the rise in drug use 30 years ago, you have to examine the fringe cinema of the period: pornos, educational films, and exploitation flicks.

Yerba Buena Center For The Arts screens a stellar line-up of some of this fringe cinema in its current series, *Trash Kings of Cult Cinema*. Film archivist Jack Stevenson has put together two programs, *Films From the Cellar: Sleazy S.F. Sex Pics and Psychedelic Cult Film Meltdown*, both of which — in their switched-on and with-it moments — provide plenty of camp hilarity. But on a deeper level, in the way they alternate between raunchy and moralistic, cautionary and sensationalistic, these films mirror the ambivalent attitudes towards sex and drugs in Nixon-era America.

Films From the Cellar: Sleazy S.F. Sex Pics includes works that have sometimes more than one



Get That Sailor! from Sleazy S.F. Sex Pics at Yerba Buena

connection to the Bay Area. Many of the films were screened locally as part of Stevenson's cheese 'n' sleaze cinematic showcases in the early '90s. Other offerings were shot in San Francisco, such as the intermittently uproarious *My Father's Call Girl*. This 1968 softcore porno follows a glamorously skanky young couple as they get carried away while perusing girly mags in a Mission St. smut shack. Before long the pair is writhing together, holding photos of stiff cocks and wet pussies at their crotches, while squealing Judy Carneisms like "Sock it to me, baby!" and "I dig it!" It's all very early John Waters, right down to the actress's ratty bouffant and the actor's frightful skin condition.

Sleazy S.F. Sex Pics also includes a number of porn trailers, both straight and gay. We're treated to teasers of *Sex and the Working Girl*, a kooky, early '70s XXX film starring a glossy-lipped Kay Lenz lookalike, as well as *China Girl*, a sex-action-drama hybrid full of karate chops, car chases and blow jobs. The gay porn trailers include the tantalizing *Get That Sailor*, which consists of a gaggle of cute boys fucking to a go-go beat, and *Blue Summer Breeze*, a scenic skin flick about a young ex-G.I. who "discovers a male paradise" in the wilds of Northern California. Except for the occasional couple rimming on a boulder, this lushly photographed, travelogue-like film could be a commercial by California's Bureau of Tourism.

Any sweet taste left in your mouth from those jism-intensive opuses will be washed away with the trailer to another gay porno, *Devil in the Flesh*. This preview features comically stilted narration ("This is Lenny. Lenny lives in a world of sensuality and petty crime") over a montage of clips from a grim little film about a gay man who picks up a sexy trick/psycho killer. On the basis of this trailer, *Devil in the Flesh* presents an ugly, sordid view of gay life and likely sent its audience home in a severe state of self-loathing. If we know San Francisco queens, this one's going to be received with a chorus of hisses.

Even more likely to offend is *Animal Lovers*, an early '70s documentary on bestiality from Denmark. The film begins with a middle-aged man dryly lectures on the topic of bestiality through the ages. This segment turns bizarre when, in the middle of his speech, we begin to hear the faint cries of a cat, which gradually grow louder.

er and more pained. Is this just some sick joke? It's not likely, considering the dead-serious tone of the rest of the film. The most unsettling segment has this same bestiality expert interviewing a seemingly distraught San Jose woman who claims to have been forced to fellate dogs when she was kidnapped in Marrakech. Jovial in comparison is a later interview with a "little farm girl" in Denmark, who proudly admits to having had sex with a bull, a pig, a horse and — the best in the sack by far, she says — her dog, Lassie. The "girl" (actually a buxom, cornfed Dane of about 30) then offers to engage in a quickie with Lassie for the cameras, an act which is thankfully edited out.

Fever dream

While *Sleazy S.F. Sex Pics* boldly covers predilections of almost every stripe, Stevenson's other program, *Psychedelic Cult Film Meltdown*, is even more diverse, stringing its seemingly-unrelated segments together with the logic of a fever dream. In this collection, scenes from a drugs-in-the-'burbs melodrama, *The People Next Door*, segue into a surreal short from Norway on tooth decay. The latter film features crude, scary-looking puppets shrieking dialogue and songs (no subtitles provided) while romping around a set of giant molars. Like *Teletubbies*, this is children's entertainment filled with sights and sounds highly conducive to tripping.

Speaking of tripping, actress Deborah Winters spends little screen time not on acid, speed, coke, weed or heroin (as she says at one point, "I've done all the grooves") in the 20 or so sidesplitting minutes we see of *The People Next Door*. This was one of many theatrical and made-for-TV movies in the early '70s that dealt with the scourge of white kids on dope. Some of these films, such as *Go Ask Alice* and *Maybe I'll Come Home in the Spring* (the latter featuring a post-*Gidget* Sally Field as a hippie stoner!), were relatively thoughtful and effective. *The People Next Door*, on the other hand, is a screechy, overwrought drama about a 16-year-old junkie (Winters), and the devastating effects her addiction has on her model mom and dad (a slumming Julie Harris and Eli Wallach). In this exploitation flick, it isn't enough that Winters is a druggie, writer JP Miller also makes her a slut, who brags about her promiscuity ("Elliott and I were fucking, Mom") and, in a heroin haze, tries to

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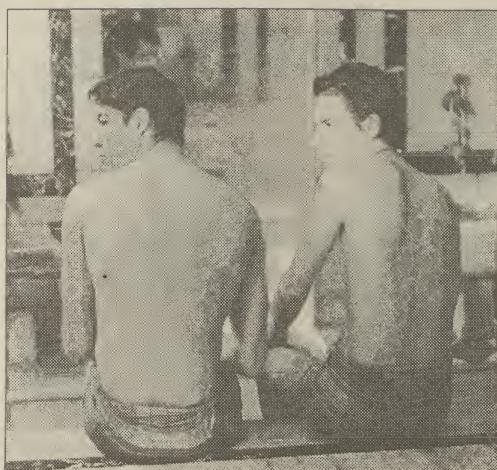
ment value, and of course camp content. Using these criteria, there is much to cheer here, and no more to vilify than should be expected.

At the top of the must-see list are three imports, one of which has historical significance beyond its considerable cinematic interest. *Dakan* (1997) is the first West African gay feature, and announces itself as such from the first scene, a steamy make-out session in a car between two teenage boys. Director Mohamed Camara, filming in secret due to the touchy subject matter, convincingly overlays a class conflict and social critique onto this gay *Romeo and Juliet* update, but the focus is always on the emotional power of a taboo relationship. Zhang Yuan's Chinese/French co-production *East Palace, West Palace* (1996) details an equally "impossible" relationship, this time between a hunky, sadistic straight policeman and the masochistic queen he arrests and tortures for cruising a park. As in *Dakan*, the attraction here is the unassailable truth of emotions and the desperate need to live authentically. The subdued, beautifully shot *Steam* (1997), directed by Ferzan Ozpetek, is a bittersweet picture of a married Italian architect who finds emotional liberation in a gay romance during a business trip to Turkey.

Lesbian junkie

Another high point of the festival, *High Art* (1998), has a pedigree that might put off viewers who think well-known stars like Ally Sheedy aren't compatible with "independent film." But director Lisa Cholodenko's quietly dire vision of a burned-out lesbian junkie artist and her pals in New York should not be missed. More classically "independent" is Gary Rosen and Greg Pritikin's ragged, wonderfully funny slacker comedy *Totally Confused* (1998). Rosen charms as a Woody Allen-like gay schlemiel who, like his straight best friend (played by Pritikin), spends most of his time in a fog of comic self-delusion. If no one has suggested to this talented pair that they sell this as a TV show, let me do so here.

Another comedy, Marta Balbo-Coll and Simeon Curgoe's *Honey I Sent the Men to the Moon*

A scene from Ferzan Ozpetek's *Steam*.

(1997), is a too-tame satire of gender wars and consumer culture. This labored effort is a major disappointment from the talented director of 1995's *Costa Brava*. Perhaps the lack of the kind of lesbian element present in the earlier film capsized this one. Better is Waris Hussein's intermittently droll *Sixth Happiness* (1997) about a "boy" (he looks about 50) with a bone disease who stops growing at four feet but manages to seduce several beautiful people, male and female. Moving down a few notches is Bernard Salzman's maudlin "AIDS movie" *The Unknown Cyclist* (1998). This film has the suffocatingly fake ambiance of a Lifetime cable TV movie, which also accounts for its target audience. Stephen Spinella regurgitates his trademark screaming, self-righteous queen routine, Lee Thompson evaporates before your eyes as the legal wife of Spinella's dead "ex-husband," and poor, beautiful Danny Nucci tries vainly to conjure a character out of the script's microscopic pickings.

AIDS appears to be less pressing in this year's lineup than in the past, perhaps for pharmacological reasons. *Together Alone*, P.J. Castellaneta's two-person, single-set, almost-real-time talkathon about safe sex and other topics, actually dates to 1991. Ioannis Mookas' documentary *Only Human* (1998) takes the opposite tack of most AIDS movies, examining in moving detail the pecu-

liar problem of men surrounded by an epidemic who have managed to avoid it. Shorts about AIDS like Christos Dimas' *Breath* carry their own caveat in the catalog description: "*Breath* says goodbye through four elegiac dance pieces."

Trouble with trade is the subject of Paul Oremand's 1998 *Like It Is*. The trade in question is Craig (Steve Bell), a violent, sexy brat whose ample charms bring grief to his music producer lover. Watch for Roger Daltrey as a clever, manipulative old queen. Jimmy Smallhorne's mood-drenched *2by4* is another drama about our friends from the British Isles — well, butch Irish expats in New York — struggling with the lure of drugs and queer sex. New

York is also the setting for a resurrected classic, Paul Morrissey's *Trash*, which showcases Joe D'Addario's definitive bored junkie hunk. Less alluring but more compelling, perhaps, is Holly Woodlawn's corrosive, wigged-out drag queen, whose goals in life are to get on welfare and get Joe back on top of her (a wish much of the audience will appreciate).

Hammer probes

One of the attractions of the SFILGFF is the unveiling of hidden histories and the airing-out of closets of the past. Barbara Hammer's *The Female Closet* (1998) is an outstanding example, probing without polemicing the lives of three women artists and their relationship to the closet. Painter Nicole Eisenman offers refreshing evidence of social change when

A scene from *Love Story*.

she says simply, "I don't think I know any artists in the closet." A lesbian love affair between a Nazi sympathizer and a Jewish underground worker would seem too improbable to be real, but Catrine Clay's *Love Story* (1997) beautifully delineates this obsessive romance that only ended when one of them was shipped to the death camps.

Another German, the ever-present Rosa von Praunheim, substantially documents the history of homosexuality (primarily male) in his country in *Gay Courage* (1997), and winds up in the "gay mecca" of San Francisco to tell us how liberated we are. The historical reenactments are embarrassing, but solid analysis and interviews provide balance. Jeff Dupre's *Out of the Past* (1997) is a welcome portrait of noted lesbian high school student Kelli Peterson, whose poise and grace in the face of Mormon fanatics is an object lesson in fighting oppression. The film gives historical perspective by positioning Peterson as part of a long tradition of queer activists. Mark Rappaport is a well-known pop culture excavator (Jean Seberg, Rock Hudson); his new film, *The Silver Screen: Color Me Lavender* (1998), is a wry look at the apparently vast queer subtext in Hollywood comedies, westerns, and film noirs. Revisionism, even when fueled by a camp sensibility, can be problematic as an historical method, but Rappaport is convincing, if overlong, on his subject.

Jesse Helms is perhaps the last person any self-respecting queer would want to claim or reclaim, but director Tim Kirkman in *Dear Jesse* (1997) finds unsuspected

next page ►

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by Gary Morris

For those of our readers who prefer anatomy to artistry, or more coarsely, meat to melodrama, we offer the following consumer guide. There's no need to wade through the acres of cinema that comprise the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival if all you really want to know — as so many of us do — is which films show, in a fleeting glimpse, half-light, or extended mesmerizing sequence, our spongy-tissued little pals. This survey is by no means complete, and we encourage readers who encounter full-frontal male nudity in films not mentioned here to spread the word among their fellow penisspotters.

There appear to be fewer treasures in this realm than last year, but the diligent dickophile can find ample reason to patronize the largest lesbian and gay film festival in the world. Some of the sightings this year were in expected places. The shorts program *Porn Dogs* is a virtual phallic feast. Nguyen Tan's *These Are My Favorite Things* finds us in agreement with the title as a BFD (big fat dick) has its way with an enthusiastic partner. Steve Reinke's *Andy* contrasts the pleasures of the penis with the terrors of home decorating, courtesy of "Andy's" insistence on talking about wall sconces and crown molding while kneading his substantial schlong. Most outrageous is *Pansexual Public Porn*, by the well-named Del LaGrace Volcano. Volcanic indeed are real-life scenes of public mouth-fucking, fisting, pissing, and lurid FTM sexual hijinx.

Leave it to the Germans to elaborate on the primacy of the prick. Rosa von Praunheim rescues the stranded cockwatcher with *Gay Courage*, an otherwise overlong documentary with painfully bad historical recreations. A parade of penises make this necessary if not always rewarding viewing. Rosa's spiritual brother, Jochen Hick, interviewed nine men involved with porn, modeling, hustling, etc. in *Sex Life in L.A.* Hardcore highlights include Madonna's ex-boyfriend Tony Ward masturbating in the bathtub, and porn prince Matt Bradshaw using his massive manmeat on various hapless accomplices. Fans of the literal cutting-edge may appreciate performance

artist Ron Athey's ball lacerations and related penis presentation. (For those who want more of this human Veg-o-matic, see Catherine Saalfield's documentary *Hal-lehuhja!*)

Walk-on pricks

Some of this year's prick appearances are barely walk-ons. In Waris Hussein's *Sixth Happiness*, a queen dwarf and his sister titter when they glimpse a naked man in a magazine. Jimmy Smallhorse's *bby4*, a drama about the working-class Irish, has a few dick scenes, but they're mostly swaddled in shadows. Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's *Party Mon-*

another AIDS-inflected story that fails in the dick department, in spite of the dramatic desirability of full-frontal nudity in a movie where much of the characters' midnight chatter is about sex. Ferzan Ozpetek's Turkish/Italian production *Steam* is another one filled with fetching men who regrettably never take it off. Culture mavens will be rightly thrilled that *Dakan*, a superb gay West African feature (from Guinea) even got released, but the fanatic phalophile may not forgive the lack of dick shots of the film's two beautiful leading men.

The most scintillating of this year's cock tableaux belong not to this year but to the 1970s. The

Genital highlights include Tony Ward masturbating in the bathtub, and porn prince Matt Bradshaw using his massive manmeat.

ster, about the navel-gazing queen-murderer Michael Alig of Club Kids fame, has some brief cock images, but the context is so repellent that only the most diehard dickwatchers will want to add this one to their list.

Still, these are better than those films that practically scream for schlong but don't have any. Bernard Salzman's *The Unknown Cyclist* has the gorgeous Danny Nucci mostly in bicycle leotards, but this wretched "AIDS movie" refuses to make good on this promise and show us Danny's no-doubt mesmerizing goods. His tantalizing suggestion of a dick-measuring contest, which fails to materialize, is bitter icing on an inedible cake. *Together Alone* is

purest example is James Broughton's *Hermes Bird* (1979), a seven-minute single shot of a penis first in repose, then brought to reassuring stiffness. "Firearm of my spirit," says Broughton in a poetic overdub, "all that flows into flame." Yes, James, exactly. Paul Morrissey's *Trash* (1970) is remarkable for a lot of things, not least of which is an ongoing display of Joe Dallesandro's consecrated cock in a happy variety of situations. Ironically, this iconoclast plays an impotent junkie, but Warhol superstar Jane Fonda, seeing the *objet d'as* for the first time, says it all in a mantra that devoted dicksters will repeat like a Buddhist chant: "Oh, my ... you're rather large." ▼

SFILGFF

◀ previous page

links between the wizened pusher of legal drugs and himself: "We both have an obsession with homosexual men!" This documentary also finds spirited resistance, particularly among women, against His Odiousness in the New South, but ultimately Kirkman is preaching to the choir. Perhaps Jesse should be asked to look at Jochen Hick's aptly titled documentary *Sex/Life in L.A.* (1998). Hick's endless parade of fucking and cocksucking hustlers, models, porn stars, etc., might inspire Helms to find a new career as a grim-faced daddy, slobbering, toothless old bottom, or ancient, distinguished leather queen, since his time "serving" the nation is running out.

Some of the festival's treasures are squirreled away in dense shorts programs. The *Queer Cartoons II* show (see review in this issue) mines the heights and depths of camp, but there are others worth pointing out. In the *Yellow Fever* program, Wayne Yung's *The Queen's Cantonese* brilliantly skewers language programs by introducing queer sexual elements: "Fuck me, please ... Deeper, please..." Ian Iqbal Rashid's *Surviving Sabu*, piggybacked onto the aforementioned *Sixth Happiness*, uses the fetching 1940s boy star as a vehicle for a dazzling look into the gap between an uptight Indian father and his inexplicably gay son. Two entries in the *Fun in Boys' Shorts* program are worth the show. Harry Victor's slick *Ly-*



Dear Jesse

canthropobia, about a peculiar revenge exacted on two gaybathers, has a genuinely creepy atmosphere, and Dean Slotar's *The Abolution of Anthony* masterfully sketches a hunky Puerto Rican teenager obsessed with phone sex.

Among the least categorizable films this year is Hilary Brougher's provocative *The Sticky Fingers of Time*. Part sci-fi drama (with liberal dashes of *The Twilight Zone*), part noir thriller, part lesbian/bisexual search story, this ambitious work is alternately confusing and compelling, but ultimately moves in too many directions to be entirely effective. Another elusive film is Sergio Toledo's 1986 masterpiece, *Vera*. The mystery-gendered title character's obsession with living according to an inner reality and refusal to conform to others' expectations no matter what the cost points the way to a thrilling future of gender chaos — and makes her a dandy poster girl for this year's SFILGFF. ▼

The SFILGFF plays June 18-28; Ticket Outlet is at 400 Castro St.; 24-hour hotline: 703-8663.

FILM FESTIVAL

High Art

Arts cover

Grimes does an unintentional parody of a Holocaust survivor with a generic Eastern European accent.

Clarkson is atmospherically eerie as an ex-Fassbinder groupie who may or may not have ever been in a film, but is now lost in opium-fueled dreams of past and future glory. Lanky and luscious, with a Dietrich-inspired delivery, she may have really been something, once. Her current talents include slurred speech, passing out, and accusing others of her own shortcomings. In one of her lower moments, she conscientiously picks up a spilled blob of scrambled eggs and flings it back on the plate before pulling the blankets up over both herself and breakfast. Greta has the kind of sick psychosexual hold on Lucy that our mothers warned us against when they brought us up not to be lesbians.

There is a positive role model, but strictly speaking, she's not a dyke. The film's heroine, Syd (Radha Mitchell) is a baby-faced blonde who has a boyfriend, the apartment directly downstairs from Lucy, and a steady job. The film's weakest moments are when we're stuck at home with Syd and James (Gabriel Mann). It's not their fault they're young, blonde, and shallow, but it's hard to stay interested.

Surface qualities

Syd does better in the offices of *Frame*, the slick New York photo mag where she's just been promoted to assistant editor. Here she's bookended by two icons of façade: Harry (David Thornton), the goateed editor for whom she fetches scones; and Dominique Peugeot (Anh Duong), the boss. We don't get to see beneath the surface of these superficial people, but Duong's surface has ripples. Maybe because she's gigantic, deadpan, and has a face right out of Picasso's *Demoiselles d'Avignon*. There's a chilling scene at the bathroom mirror where she makes some demands, boss-to-underling, in a world-weary monotone, while making eye contact only with Syd's reflection.

Deploying pubescent bisex appeal, earnest ambition, and plain dumb luck, Syd orchestrates a photo spread of Berliner's work that lands them in bed together, puts herself on the cover, and indirectly inspires the reluctant comeback to OD in Greta's sepul-



Greta (Patricia Clarkson) and Lucy Berliner (Ally Sheedy) in *High Art*.

chral arms. While nothing can really be blamed on Syd, who is only the unwitting catalyst of somebody else's self-destruction, it's a pity Mitchell doesn't even attempt to convey the moral ambivalence of blonde ambition.

So much for plot and performance. What sets this film apart and makes it more than worthy of opening a festival (queer, co-dependent, or otherwise) is its "high" style. Form is content: shots are almost never centered; the screen is often divided in two, with a medium shot of a character exactly filling one half of the screen. The cinematography thus mimics the quirky compositions of the fictional photographer, seeming to catch the off-center characters off-guard. (And for once the work of an artist in a film lives up to its fictional reputation: Jojo Whilden's photos are fab snaps.)

Similar stylization is at work in the pacing and delivery. (Only Grimes, perhaps because of her unsinkable theatricality, can't quite manage to syncopate.) There's a lazy, off-the-cuff feel that is reassuring in its disciplined consistency. This very cool aesthetic is better at showing the surface than suggesting the depths, and the film does suffer from its two-dimensional brilliance, but Baby, what a relief this is from politically-correct knee-jerk naturalism.

The loveliest thing about *High Art* is the length of its takes. Real confidence in the material and trust in the performers, not to mention the bucking of Hollywood trends, is required for a director to stay with the rhythm of a scene as lived. When Syd and Lucy get into bed together for the first time in some upstate New York

B&B, they go from fully clothed to under the covers and emotionally naked in only six (count 'em, six) shots.

Speaking of sex, this film has the most convincing (because least glamorized) intimate erotic encounters ever seen in a "lesbian" film. In fact, the whole film is erotic and intimate. Maybe it's all that dreamy druginess steaming up Lucy and Greta's apartment, but there's an ambient sensuality that means the characters don't suddenly turn into sex objects when they lie down together. The continuum between conscious life and subconscious drives established, characters retain their status as subjects and go to bed, feelings first.

Despite or in keeping with its overly clever title, *High Art* introduces the viewer/voyeur to the heights of dependency common to drugs and impossible love, while sketching the paradox of egocentrism and ego-loss necessary to the making of either love or art. However ugly its subject sometimes gets, this viewer-friendly film is consistently easy on the eyes. ▼

TELEVISION

Murder most foul



Filmmaker Arthur Dong's powerful documentary *Licensed To Kill* premieres nationally on Tuesday, June 23, on PBS's P.O.V. The film, a co-presentation of the National Asian American Telecommunications Association, offers a candid exploration of the motivations behind men whose homophobia has led them to murder. ▼

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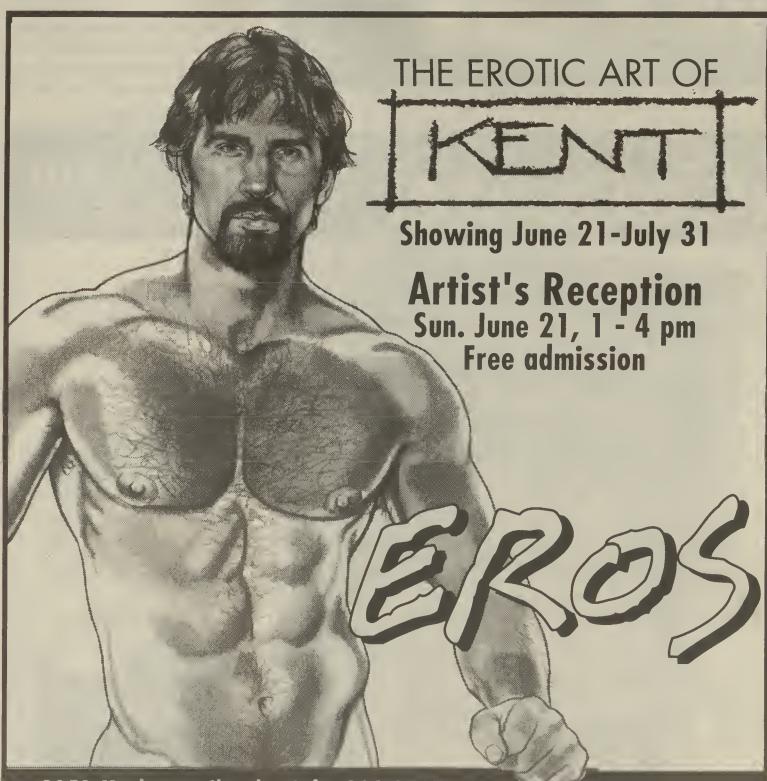
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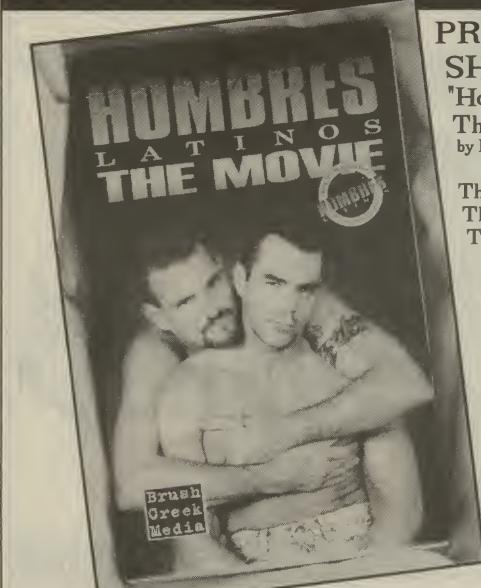
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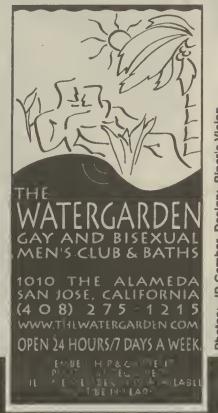


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Swamp thang

Mark Morris does 'Platée'

by Stephanie von Buchau

Whenever I start to think in advance of a new Mark Morris piece: "Been there, done that, got the T-shirt, yada, yada, yada," the little dickens surprises me. We all know by now that Morris' directing and choreographing is funny, raunchy, sexy, musical, touching, enchanting. His production of Jean-Philippe Rameau's 1745 opera-ballet, *Platée*, which had its only American performances at UC Berkeley last weekend, is all of that. It is also monumentally silly in all the best meanings of that word.

Rameau, the Sondheim of the French Baroque, was probably too clever for his countrymen. English-speaking critics have been suspicious of this contemporary of Bach and Handel because he didn't write much religious music. Most of his theatrical works were composed for a frivolous, pleasure-seeking Parisian audience. They range from high-minded tragedies such as *Hippolyte et Aricie* to low-down satires of the very operatic genre he had helped invent.

Platée is just such a satire, a musical work *sui generis* that takes on mythology, royal romance (it was written for the wedding festivities of the Dauphin and a Spanish Infanta who reportedly could stop a clock), and most important of all, the stylized conventions of French Baroque theater. It is, literally, a laugh riot, front-loaded with one musical joke after another. Most of these were clearly audible due to conductor Nicholas McGegan and his Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, which has seldom sounded so sharp and pointed.

Still, this is a Morris-Rameau show in which the director never betrays the composer's express wishes, yet constantly illuminates the musical jokes while adding an



Jean-Paul Foucheourt plays the deluded denizen of the swamp *Platée*.

antic postmodern spin of his own. With excellent singers, including the French *haute-contre* (very high tenor) Jean-Paul Foucheourt in the title role, and 21 members of the Mark Morris Dance Group playing everything from bar *habitués* to swamp denizens, *Platée* tells the story of a vain nymph who believes Jupiter is paying court to her, until her pretensions are exposed and everybody has a good, cruel laugh at her expense.

Bar flies

Morris and his set designer, Adrienne Lobel, imagine the mythological prologue, in which the gods of comedy, wine, and love get together at a bacchanal to

cause the moral of this cruel tale is that ugly, vain, importunate women deserve to be humiliated. (Nobody ever said 18th-century Frenchmen were kind and gentle.) Jupiter and his warring spouse Juno wear red velvet ("Imperial Margarine," McGegan says), while Mercury sports a blue blazer and arrives from the flies in a gold machine complete with seat belt.

Even funnier are *Platée*'s swamp critters: a lizard-in-waiting, a pair of amorous snakes who stick out their tongues at each other, madly dancing birds with beaks and feathered wings, a pair of babies in diapers, and philosophers with white paper beards (these latter are Rameau's inven-

Morris constantly illuminates composer Rameau's musical jokes while adding an antic postmodern spin of his own.

tell the story of *Platée*, as taking place in a New York tavern, complete with Miller Beer signs and a glass terrarium behind the bar that turns into the set for *Platée*'s swamp. The bar's customers include a leather queen, a sailor, a policeman, a chorine, and a smashing dyke in pinstripes and Fedora who arm-wrestles the sailor. They dance while Marika Kuzma's UC Berkeley Chamber Chorus sings from the pit.

The swamp acts introduce *Platée* (Foucheourt) in Margaret Dumont drag designed by Isaac Mizrahi. Not only does she have the most pendulous tits but she covers them in a bilious pink tea gown, complete with lorgnette and pearls. Foucheourt maintains *Platée*'s precarious dignity in this get-up, very necessary be-

tion). Three Graces, one of them a prat-falling guy, are chased and groped by four hoisted Yekels in jockstraps and body stockings covered with unattractive clumps of hair.

This silliness climaxes in Act Three with a pair of copulating turtles leading a madly careening chaconne that seems to introduce every dancer, musician, and singer in the Western world in one long conga line. It's as if Rameau said, "I dare ya!" to Morris, and Morris said, "In yer face, Jean-Philippe!" By that time, the Zellerbach audience was laughing, cheering, shrieking, screaming, hooting, yelling, whooping — and for all I know, they still are. What I want to know is how Morris makes it look so easy, when it so clearly isn't. ▼

OPERA

'L'Incoronazione di Poppea'

Crowning achievement

by Paul Thomason

If you love opera, or even just kinda like it, do not miss the San Francisco Opera's new production of Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*. The opening performance last Saturday was one of the strongest I have seen from the company in my six years in San Francisco. The huge cast, almost two dozen soloists, had hardly a clunker among them.

With the exception of Christopher Alden's propensity for having singers lie on the floor at the slightest whim, the direction was deft, and given the directorial excesses one often gets at the War Memorial, it seems churlish to complain about something that merely became monotonous. Designer Robert Perdziola managed to mix an astonishing variety of styles into a pleasing whole.

Monteverdi's 17th-century retelling of the story of Nero's tossing aside his wife Ottavia for his mistress Poppea takes about

three and a half hours to unfold, and there is only one intermission. But with Patrick Summers conducting his own version of the opera, the drama never sagged, the rich orchestral timbers were a constant delight (when was the last time you heard three sackbuts at the opera?), and the emotional tone of the evening was always exactly right. Magically, Summers and his forces made this intimate opera fill the War Memorial Opera House without violating the work. Bravi tutti.

Despite the incredibly high level of singing and acting throughout the evening, there were a few performances which sparkled even more — chief among these, Lorraine Hunt in her company debut as Ottavia, and Robert Lloyd as Seneca. Halfway through Hunt's first aria I wondered, "Could Maria Callas in her prime have been any more riveting on stage?" There was nothing Hunt could not do, vocally or dramatically. Her artistry had a completeness about it

which one almost never gets today, and any well-run opera company would move Heaven and Earth to have her back every year. Her great Act III lament, "A Dio, Roma," is something I shall never forget.

Lloyd's Seneca was not a musty, woolly-sounding philosopher, but a rich-toned, vibrant man who clearly sees what is going on. His confrontation with Nero was riveting. Lloyd seems to get better every time he is on stage, and one can only be thankful he is at the San Francisco Opera so regularly. We should never take him for granted.

Hot Poppea

Gorgeous Ruxandra Donose was an extremely hot Poppea, both vocally and dramatically, and debuting David Daniels' Nero was a superb match. In his first scene, Daniels had a bit of trouble at the very top of his voice, but he went on to unleash some formidable coloratura and to do some of the most ravishing soft singing I have heard in ages — as well as creating a bratty, believable, almost likable Nero.

Despite the length of the evening, Mel Ulrich's Ottone was so fabulous in every way one lamented the cuts in his part. Zvetelina Vassileva offered a passionate, well-sung Drusilla. In her San Francisco Opera debut, tenor Barry Banks donned female attire and played Arnalta, Poppea's



Ruxandra Donose (Poppea) and David Daniels (Nerone) in *Poppea*

nurse and confidante. He did it very well, often being funny without being too campy, until his last aria, when he (appropriately) went for broke.

Among the other superbly rich performances that must be singled out were Christina Lambertini's Fortuna, Matthew Lord's Lucano, John Relyea's Mercurio, Norman Shankle in his company

debut as Valtetto, and Peggy Kriha Dye as Damigella. They each deserve much more than a mere mention — as well as our gratitude. ▼

L'Incoronazione di Poppea continues through June 26. Call 864-3330 for times and tickets.



An LSD-crazed girl tries to paint her daddy's face psychedelic.

Sleazy Sex Pics

◀ page 42

French-kiss her dad.

Much of *Psychedelic Cult Film Meltdown* is made up of anti-drug spots, such as *Hooks*, a U.S. Army film narrated by that paragon of clean country livin', Michael "Papa Ingalls" Landon. The U.S. Navy produced the far more scintillating *Trip to Where?*, an anti-drug film rife with homoerotism, in which an older male mentor guides a group of hunky young sailors as they all drop acid and get a glimpse into the "sunbursts of their souls." Naturally, one of the sailors, a furry-chested cutie named Bill, has a bad trip and begins seeing horrifying images, such as one of himself in lipstick and a cheap blonde wig. It's hard to tell if this film is a warning about the dangers of drugs or repressed sexuality. There's no question as to what *LSD Case Study*, a 5-minute film the Lockheed Corporation made for its employees, is warning us about. When you're at your next swinging party, pass up the platters of blotter acid and stick with the bowls of Bugles and Screaming Yellow Zonkers instead, or you might just end up like the young woman in this film, whose hot dog turns into a troll doll right before her eyes.

At first, it's difficult to figure out what an episode of the mid-'70s religious TV show *Insight* is doing in the midst of all this drug hysteria, but somehow it fits perfectly. Thirty-minute mini-dramas deal-

ing with provocative issues of the day, *Insight* was supposed to be evidence of a more progressive, less "uptight" Catholic Church. In reality, the show was heavy-handed and often creepy. The hippie-dippy episode included here, "Christmas 2025," is about a hip freethinker (we know he's a hip freethinker by the lovebeads he wears) named George, who brings peace and love to a dehumanized future society. As played by a young and obviously desperate James Cromwell (*L.A. Confidential*), George is part Christ-figure, part Rod McKuen, inspiring his flock with groovy gospel like, "Take your energy and turn it into a smile!"

You may find that many images from *Trash Kings of Cult Cinema* — the eczema-covered stud in *My Father's Call Girl*, the possessed-looking puppets in *Karius Og Bakutis* or, particularly, the hot dog-torn-troll doll in *LSD Case Study* — will come back to haunt you like acid flashbacks. Not all the films here present such hallucinatory delights, but this series still qualifies as essential viewing for all cineastes with a taste for trash. ▼

Films from the Cellar: Sleazy SF Sex Pics shows on Friday, June 19, at 8 p.m. at the screening room of Yerba Buena Center For The Arts, 701 Mission St. **Psychedelic Cult Film Meltdown** shows on Friday, June 26, at 8 p.m. at the same location. Call 978-2787 for tickets and information.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Terrance Boykin



Leon Acord in *Last Sunday In June* at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St.

Sunday's child

Last Sunday In June is local independent film actor Leon Acord's first written and performed solo stage-play. Set at and around the San Francisco Pride Parade, Acord's play introduces us to a wide range of poignant characters: a closeted Hollywood actor, a Wonder Woman obsessed drag queen activist, a pro-life lesbian, a muddled Midwestern mother, and a host of others. Acord most recently originated the role of "Chris" in Lou Reda's stage comedy *Happy Anniversary*, which enjoyed a successful two-month run at Studio Theatre Rhinoceros. He played "Devon" in the comedy feature *Some Prefer Cake*, which is being distributed in Great Britain and has screened at festivals around the globe. In *Breath*, one of the highlights of the San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, Acord plays a street hustler in a film written and directed by Christos Dimas, which screens on June 27. He has played principal roles in the recent independent features *Housebound*, *The Orange Field*, *Roommates & Cafe*. Director of *Last Sunday In June*, Jeffrey Hartgraves is a graduate of the original Edge Project of Playwright's Workshop Theatre and served two years as Associate Artistic Director with Planet Earth Multi-Cultural Theatre. He is a founding member of The Writer's Circle, a creative collective, which cultivates and produces many original works by its members. In *Last Sunday In June*, Acord and Hartgraves weave the seemingly disparate stories into a single, fun and passionate theatre experience. On Thursday, June 25 at 8:30 p.m. there will be a special charity performance benefiting Community United Against Violence. The play runs on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 7:30 p.m. through June 27 at The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros. ▶

Fri

The Ballad Sopranos

The Kinsey Sicks perform their unique and fabulous drag-pella beautyshop quartet. \$16-\$20. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/26, New Conservatory Theater Center, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Balm in Gilead

Featuring 22 actors, the play illuminates the intimate world of outcasts finding solace in a N.Y. city all-night cafe. \$12-\$20. Fri.-Mon. at 8:30pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 7/3. Magic Theatre, Bldg D, Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

Bomba

Experimental comedy group "Tongue In A Mood" present a celebration of Filipino sexual independence. \$7-\$10. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 7/4. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 Sixth St. 974-1167.

Bottoms Up!

The LAB presents eleven artists, who examine sex from a sex-positive position that welcomes new beauty ideals and sexual configurations. Free. Wed.-Saturday, 12pm-5pm; thru 7/3. The Lab, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Clothing Sale

Artist designed clothing made in Guatemala. A benefit for the Alternative Family Project. 12 noon to 6pm. Sat. and Sun. at 10am-6pm. Alternative Family Project, 425 Divisadero, Suite 203. 436-9000.

Cockfight

Written and performed by Justin Chin and Hung Nguyen, "Cockfight" is a dual of words, images and subconscious. \$16. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 6/20. The New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Cool Queer Video

A screening of "Beautiful Thing" in celebration LGBT Pride month. \$3. 7:30pm. Freedom Socialist Party, 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

Deeply There

Joe Goode Performance Group presents "Deeply There

(Stories of a Neighborhood)." a humorous, musical story about urban AIDS culture and strong community. \$12-\$22. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 6/21. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St. 648-4848.

Disputed Territory

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project presents "Disputed Territory: Sexploration." \$10-\$15. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm; thru 6/26. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St, Suite 216C. 863-2989.

En Drag

Female Impersonation Revue with the incomparable Sexily Luvsat & Co. \$10. Every Friday at 9pm, 10pm. 11:30pm. Kimo's Showroom, 1351 Polk Street. 885-4535.

Enter, then Pause

Michael Goldfried's hilarious bi-coastal comedy explores the odyssey of a young man in the '90s. Directed by Jeffrey Friedman. \$8-\$12. Wed.-

Sat. at 8:30pm; thru 6/27. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750.

Ethnic Dance Festival

30 Northern California dance companies and soloists from a variety of cultural traditions. \$15-\$25. Fri. at 8pm. Sat. at 2pm and 8pm. Sun at 2pm; thru 6/28. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. 392-4400.

Exit The King

Eugene Ionesco's hilarious and tragic play. \$8-\$12. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 7/28. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy St. 673-3847.

Film Festival

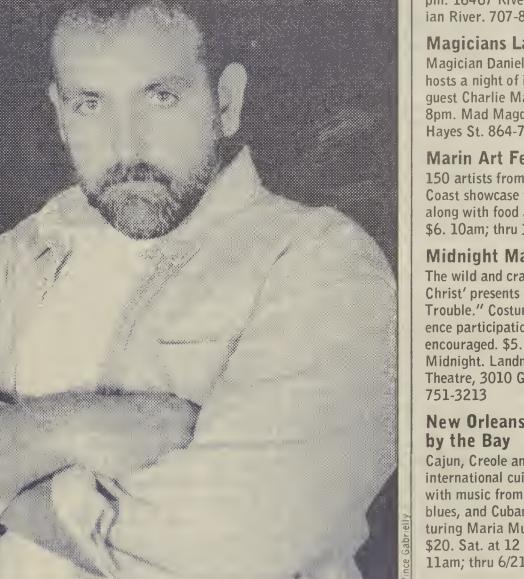
22nd International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. \$5-\$7.50; thru 6/28. See festival guide. Ticket outlet at 400 Castro Street. 863-9802.

Footloose Fundraisers

Footloose celebrates 2 years at Venue 9 with a weekend of benefit performances featur-

Willis Moore debuts in

Getting Tall at Piaf's, 1686 Market St. See Friday.



Vince Sabally

ing "Hey You Theater," "Ta Lam 10," and emcee Scott Malone and others. \$10 and up. Thur.-Sun. at 7:30pm; thru 6/21. Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. 289-2000.

Homo Solo
A tour de force of solo stage performances with True Margrit, Doug Holclaw, Sabrina Alonso, Canyon Sam and many more. \$5-\$10. Fri-Sun; thru 6/21. Queer Arts Festival, Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 552-7709.

Last Sunday in June
Actor Leon Acord writes and performs his solo stage-play filled with hilarious comedy and drama. \$15. Fri-Sat. at 8:30pm. Sun. at 7:30pm; thru 6/27. Studio Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Leather Puppy Contest
The first ever SF Leather Puppy contest open to all genders, featuring Donna Sachet and Absolute Empress XXXX. A benefit for Lyric. \$2. 7pm. Powerhouse, 1347 Folsom St. 703-6150 ext. 23.

Night of the Iguana
Actors Theatre of San Francisco revives Tennessee Williams' steamy psychological drama. \$10-\$18. Thur.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 7/26. Actors Theatre of San Francisco, 533 Sutter St. 296-9179.

Not
A triptych performance of projected image about transformation of season and self featuring local performer Ana Matronic. 10:01pm. Polk Street Gallery Space at "re."

Oakland's Black Pride
"It's Natural '98," book signing and reading at The Book House featuring James Earl Hardy, Lisa C. Moore and K.Rhydell Watson plus prided events all weekend including gay night at Geoffrey's. Thru 6/21. Geoffrey's Inner Circle, 410 14 St. 510-268-0646.

One of the Boys
"Stories from the Midwest," solo work by John McGivern. \$15+\$2 drink min. Fridays at 10:30pm; thru 7/31. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 931-9707.

Open Heart Night
An evening of video poetry, live performances, and theatre installations, featuring Tom Brennan, Paul Benny, Karry Fefer's and others. \$12-\$15. Thur.-Sun. 8:30pm; thru 6/21. ODC Theatre, 140 14 St. 510-268-0646.

Piaf's Bunk House
FAB celebrates its 20th anniversary as a gay resort with D.J. Jeff Johnson. Free. 9pm. 16467 River Road, Russian River. 707-869-0656.

Magicians Laboratory
Magician Daniel Alstair hosts a night of illusions with guest Charlie Martin. \$5. 8pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Marin Art Festival
150 artists from the West Coast showcase their work along with food and music. \$6. 10am; thru 366-4836.

Midnight Mass
The wild and crazy "Peaches Christ" presents "Female Trouble." Costumes and audience participation strongly encouraged. \$5. Every Sat. at Midnight. Landmark's Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary Blvd. 751-3213.

New Orleans by the Bay
Cajun, Creole and Southern international cuisine along with music from over 40 jazz, blues, and Cuban bands featuring Maria Muldaur. \$15-\$20. Sat. at 12 noon. Sun. at 11am; thru 6/21. Shoreline.

3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Over Our Heads

Comedy night featuring the three women improv group, "Over Our Heads." A benefit for the Contra Costa Breast Cancer Partnership. \$5. 7:30pm. The Forum, Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Rd. Pleasant Hill. 925-313-6763.

Piaf's Restaurant

New York's cabaret favorite Willis Moore performs in "Getting Tall." 10pm. thru 6/20. Piaf's, 1686 Market St. 864-3700.

Poison

Freakshow presents a night of brand new music featuring Frankadelic live on bass guitar and moog with D.J.s Goldilox and Cougar. 10pm. The Stud, 9th & Harrison. 565-0925.

SF Camerawork

"Cocktail Hour: New Imagery in the AIDS Era," the evolution of AIDS related work by photographers and multi-media artists over the recent years. Free. Opening Reception 6/19 at 5:30pm. Exhibit Tue.-Sat from 12 noon to 5pm; thru 8/8. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma St. 764-1001.

Women's Dance

Lesbian partner dancing event to the sounds of Swing, Country Western, and Salsa. Sponsored by Gerri Shapiro. \$10-\$15. Every Friday. Lesson at 10:15pm. Polk Street Gallery Space at "re."

Sat

Dakan

The first West African feature film on homosexuality directed by Mohamed Camara. \$6-\$7.50. 6:30pm. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. 863-9802/703-8663.

Dolores Park Cafe

Tala Brandeis Photography presents a benefit for The Harvey Milk Institute through a photo exhibition called "Frank's Transformation." Free; thru 6/30. Dolores Park Cafe, 501 Dolores St. 584-3530.

Extravaganza

San Mateo's first LGBT youth under 24 Pride Dance featuring Drag Runway. 8pm. San Mateo YMCA, 1877 So. Grant Ave. 650-366-8401.

Fife's Bunk House

FAB celebrates its 20th anniversary as a gay resort with D.J. Jeff Johnson. Free. 9pm. 16467 River Road, Russian River. 707-869-0656.

Magicians Laboratory

Magician Daniel Alstair hosts a night of illusions with guest Charlie Martin. \$5. 8pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Marin Art Festival

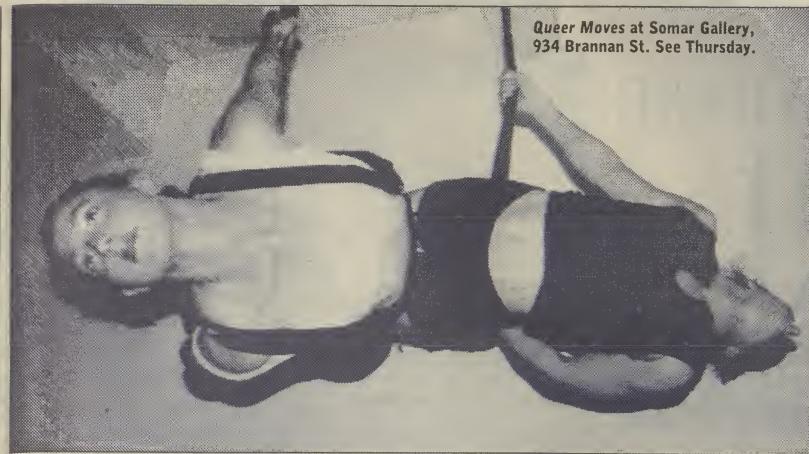
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**Queer Moves at Somar Gallery,
934 Brannan St. See Thursday.**

Ampitheatre. Mountain View.
510-762-BASS.

Queer Latina/o Festival

Visual arts, youth theater performances, poetry open mike readings, and video showcases. Thru 6/26. MCCLA, 2868 Mission St. 648-3702.

Russian River Comedy Night

Mom Starr on piano. Karen Ripley with Open Mic. Free. 9pm. Russian River Resort, Fourth & Mill St., Guerneville. 707-869-0691.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Mindy Dawn Friedman, Danny Williams, Amy Boyd. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Women's Vocal Ensemble

Kitka presents "Songs for the Summer Solstice," two concerts of traditional and contemporary Balkan and Slavic music. \$13-\$15. Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 6/21. Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-444-0323.

Mon 22

A Different Light

Authors Jose Sarria and Michael Gorman discuss "The Empress is a Man," a story about queer San Francisco. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore. 489 Castro. 431-0891.

FelixCat Seminars

An entertaining, fun, and informative seminar about automobiles. \$20. 7pm. MCC, Main Sanctuary Room, 150 Eureka St. 376-1447.

GenderAsian X

IH Kuniyuki and Christopher Lee present a TRANSGender photo series documenting the compelling transitions of sexual reassignment. Free; thru 6/30. The Chat House, 139 8th St. at Minna. 776-9624.

Josie's Cabaret

Gay comedy open mic with June MC; Scott Silverman hosting two hours of raw, up and coming talent. \$5. Every Monday. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Leather Photo Exhibit

SF Leather Photo Exhibit and auction. 100% of monies to the Inter-Club Fund featuring the work of Bill Bowers; thru 6/30. Daddy's Bar, 440 Castro. 621-8732.

Monday Night Movie

Free movie screening of "Desert Heart." Every Monday. 7pm. The Chat House, 139 8th Street. 255-8783.

Show Queens

An evening of Broadway music and song with Chris Winslow. Free. 8:30pm. Piaf's Restaurant and Cabaret, 1686 Market St. 864-3700.

Tues 23

Chanticleer

The Bay Area's internationally acclaimed male vocal ensemble presents their tour program. \$24. 8pm. Trinity Episcopal Church, Bush & Gough St. 392-4000.

Girls' Night Out

Shanna Carlson performs a stylist tribute to women in music. \$5-\$10. 9pm. Piaf's Restaurant and Cabaret, 1686 Market St. 864-3700.

Historical Society

Co-presented with the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the GLHS of Northern California will screen the lesbian themed "Love Story" and "Some Ground to Stand On."

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steven Martin's award-winning comedy, where a youthful Einstein and Picasso lock

wits. \$25-\$40. Tue.-Sun. Call for times; thru 7/26. Theatre On The Square, 450 Post St. 433-9500.

Queer Arts Festival

"FACE: queer expression through self portraiture." \$3-\$5. Tue.-Sat at 11am-4pm; thru 6/27. Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 552-7709.

Wed 24

The Ballad of Little Mickey

A camp in-your-face musical by Mark Savage about coming out, tea rooms, romance and gay activism. \$10-\$20. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm; thru 7/18. The New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Burning Blue

London's hit play written by former Navy flier D.M.W. Greer. A story about four U.S. Navy fliers whose intense friendship is the subject of a homosexual witchhunt. \$25-\$30. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. and 7pm; thru 7/5. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St.

Dames At Sea

A 1930s Hollywood style parody featuring sailors and sailormen singing snappy songs and tapping to tender tunes. \$25-\$44. Wed.-Mon. Call for times. Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St. 2nd floor. 771-6900.

Queer Cartoons II

A selection of fifteen wildly diverse gay-themed animation shorts by top filmmakers. \$6-\$7.50. 7pm. Castro Theatre 429 Castro St. 863-9802.

A Question of Mercy

West Coast premiere of David Rabe's stunning and timely drama. Author of "Hurly Burly" and "Streamers." \$15-\$26. Wed-Sat. 8:30pm; thru 6/28. Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D. 441-3687.

Show Biz'ness

A modern jazz-swing musical featuring original songs by J.C. Hopkins and dialogue by Mission District poet Pete Simonelli. \$40. 7pm. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St. 979-6545.

SF Camerawork

Discussion with Erika Langly, "Lusty Lady" and adult film photographer Ken Probst. Free. 7:30pm. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma St. 764-1001.

Veronica Klaus

Vocalist Veronica Klaus performs songs from her latest CD, "All I Want." Piaf's Restaurant and Cabaret, 1686 Market St. 864-3700.

Bad Girls

Wages Due Lesbians & US PROStitutes Collective sponsors "We Are All Bad Girls," historical footage and commentary highlighting les-

bians/gay life past and present by Chandra Redack. \$7-\$10 donation. 7pm. St. Paulus Lutheran Church, 930 Gough St. 626-4114.

Bent

Martin Sherman's Broadway play about two gay men caught in the surreal maelstrom of decadence and torture during the holocaust. \$8-\$10. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 7pm; thru 7/12. Adeline Street Theatre, 3280 Adeline, Berkeley. 510-655-0813.

Breaking the Silence

SF Public Library screens "Out in South Africa" 51 min. film about a South African community's response to the first lesbian and gay film festival. Also screening "Love Lessons," about homophobia in Colombia. Free. 12 noon. Main Library, Civic Center, 557-4525.

Enrique

Performs new rock musical "Above and Beyond the Valley of the Ultra Showgirls": a romp thru the seamy side of the rock music business. \$10. 9pm. Thursdays; extended thru 7/9. Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. 861-6906.

Raven Gallery

"Pride '98: In Celebration of Diversity," Opening night reception for local artists Vince Gabrielly, Ira Smith, Chuck Peter B, Sanford Shapiro and others. Free. 6pm; thru 7/29. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market St. 551-7940.

Queer Arts Festival

"Queer Moves," an innovative dance program ranging from ballet to jazz and funk. \$10-\$15. 8pm. Thur.-Sat. thru 6/27. Somar Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 552-7709.

Wanna Submit?

Send your calendar event listings to:

**Terrance Boykin
Out & About**
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials



PRIME RIB au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish 12.95

Grilled Salmon on a bed of garlic mashed potatoes with vegetable ragout 9.75

Chicken Stroganoff with mushrooms, marsala wine & sour cream sauce on fettuccini pasta 8.95

Grilled New York Steak with bearnaise sauce, onion rings & french fries 11.95

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Fried Calamari with dipping sauce 5.75

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Designed By Billy Raby

Out There

◀ page 34

Richard, who used to live in the penthouse, but ever since the Northridge quake has taken quarters on the ground floor. There's only one other permanent resident at the Hyatt, an elderly lady who has lived there for years. Little Richard paid her a visit on her 86th birthday because, he said, "She's the only neighbor I got!"

We were also closely acquainted with the "West Hollywood Sunset Strip Martini," which will offend martini purists because it somehow involves orange juice and a "slap" of Cointreau. Ouch. Partly as a result of this invention, we never made it to our next engagement, a wine-tasting extravaganza at Mecca. Sorry, **Ioscoles Group**. We're really not Mecca girls anyway. Give us another slap!

Hall can be stuffy indeed) ... and we were cooled!

Our last such close encounter with the kinky-curled genius was at the Ballet. Now we're two for two. But we've really got to stop meeting like this. Next time, Mr. M, meet us on the back patio of the Lone Star — and don't bother to dress up.



David Allen

Antenna Theater's Pandemonium.



Marc Geller

Pride before the fall

It's still more than a week before the parade, but already the traditional grousing over SF Pride festivities has begun heating up. Welcome to Pride Month. San Jose Pride gets **Ru Paul**, and SF Pride gets **Boy George** — wait a minute, Boy George has decided he has better things to do, like anything. Let's try that again. San Jose gets RuPaul, SF Pride gets **Blue Period**. That's right, upstart neo-glamourists and BAR house band (well, sorta) Blue Period will be playing the Main Stage Sunday at 5:40 p.m. BAR design wizard **Adrian Roberts** will be the glamourpuss in the dress that suggests, "Don't Choke On Your Pride™."

Close encounters of the Morris kind

There he was again, genius choreographer **Mark Morris**, sitting right across the aisle from us at last Friday night's performance of his inspired staging of **Jean-Philippe Rameau's** "Ballet bouffon" *Platée* in Berkeley. The comédie lyrique by one of the musical genii of the 18th Century, rescued by one of the 20th Century's, was a bundle of stimulation and delight (see ace classical critic **Stephanie von Buchau's** review), but from our vantage point the show was almost upstaged by Morris in the flesh. With a queenly flourish he produced a large white disco fan and proceeded to fan himself (with good reason: the confines of good old Zellerbach



Lenny Cullen

Michael Tilson Thomas

Buzzing the Bowl

When musical director **Michael Tilson Thomas** conducts the San Francisco Symphony in the Mahler Eighth next week, we wonder if he'll be thinking of a performance of the Eighth he gave at the Hollywood Bowl, visited from the air by a most unwanted audience in a chopper:

"The helicopter noise got louder and louder just as the orchestra was playing this most quiet music... this horrible, deafening drone," MTT writes in his book *Viva Voce*. "Something just snapped in my brain, and I yelled out, 'Basta così! I broke my baton, threw it down and walked off the stage.'"

It turned out the helicopter belonged to the police department of an L.A. suburb, who cooked up the lame excuse that they were pursuing a suspect known to be a fan of classical music. "Only when we threatened them with paying the overtime charges for the entire ensemble did they beat a hasty retreat and buzz off." ▶



Mark Morris

FILM FESTIVAL

Boys' shorts

◀ page 38

Arriving in San Francisco last September, Dimas set about composing a film elegy to the universal feelings of grief and loss. The resulting film, *Breath*, is a haunting evocation of a young man's realization that his lover is dying. Composed in four acts or dances, *Breath* shows the loneliness of grief, the young man's attempts at solace through anonymous sex (the peculiar aesthetics of video render this scene appropriately hellish), the different ways the dying man's parents assuage their sense of loss, and a stunningly beautiful coda where the two lovers kiss underwater. Dimas portrays life's ultimate experience through compelling water motifs supported by a brilliant musical score combining Irene Pappas, Radiohead, and Nina Simone. *Breath* shows on the *Elegies And Negotiations* program (Noon, 6/27, Victoria) along with *Rubber Gloves*, an oddly funny AIDS lament by local filmmaker Tom E. Brown, whose Ed Wood parody, *Don't Run Johnny*, was a big hit at last year's festival.

Even had the experience of eavesdropping on two close friends spilling their hearts out to each other on Muni? This is the kind of experience filmmaker Doug Wolens offers in his bisexual sit-com *In Frame*, as we hear two twenty-something women kvetch about sex. Lisa (Jennifer Davis) is fed up with an aggressively passive boyfriend, while Jane (Marcy Willis) is doing great with Harry and some girls on the side. For six minutes all we see is Kasha the German Shepard while Jane and Lisa tutor us in Bisexuality 101. On the same *Bi Boys And Bi Girls* program (6/22, 6:30 p.m., Victoria), Bret Hofstein's *FuturePresentPast* presents many views of a gay boy/bi girl menage. A sexy cast headed up by the ever-versatile Craig Chester makes this film within a film triangle sizzle and provoke.

Is there such a thing as tasteful porn? Consider *These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things*, Nguyen Tan Hoang's dissection of the power relationships in sex between white boys and Asians. Mixing provocatively hard-core images with Broadway show tunes, Hoang shows how easy it is to be silly and sexy. *My Favorite Things* leads off both the *Porn Dogs* and *Bay Boys* programs (6/25, 11 p.m., Roxie; 6/26, 10:30 p.m., Roxie). Also on the *Porn Dogs* program, Canadian filmmaker Steve Reinke catches a young man musing about his home decor while having a wank in *Andy* — an amusing idea that runs out steam when it becomes a little bit too Canadian.

'Banana boy'

Yellow Fever (6/20, 9:30 p.m., Victoria) is an excellent shorts program from Asian communities in America, Canada, Britain and Hong Kong, on the erotic dilemmas faced by gay Asian men in predominantly white societies. The title piece is a witty sit-com about the plight of an English "banana boy" (an Asian man who dates white men) who suddenly acquires an attractive and sexually aggressive Chinese neighbor. On the same program, *China Dolls* is an Australian documentary with a cast of Asian Aussies who speak candidly about their country's racial history and what it feels like to be at the bottom of society's sexual pecking order.

The gay teen program, *One Of Them* (6/23, 4 p.m., Victoria), gives three perspectives on the



Bav Defurne's Sailor

sexual turmoil of adolescent boys. In *A Good Son*, 16-year-old Joseph has barricaded himself behind a copy of Dickens' *Bleak House* and a Walkman full of The Velvet Underground. Attending a diving competition with his younger brother, Joseph is swept off his feet by an older boy with a way with Rimbaud and a hash pipe. Ahead lies a rooftop seduction and an uneasy glimpse at the future. *Stanley Beloved* explores the perpetually horny days and nights of a pair of Hong Kong

teens, whose parents belong to the former colony's privileged international minority. Kevin sneaks a night beach kiss on the lips of his best buddy James on the day his father acts to terminate their friendship. The most poignant story of the trilogy is the title piece, which portrays the comradeship of two teenage style queens amidst the stifling conformity of 1965 New Zealand. One of the boys is overtly queeny, but his friend refuses to face up to the implications of their relationship. Intolerable pressures lead the duo on a brief homophobic rampage before a near-tragic showdown.

Rules Of The Game (6/22, 4 p.m., Victoria) is one of the best of the gay youth-oriented film programs. Winner of the longest title for the shortest film is Thirza Jean Cuthand's *Working Babydyke Theory: Diasporic Impact of Cross-Generational Barriers*: a young lesbian laments the condescending attitudes of older women she's dated. In the title piece, several gay, lesbian and transgendered students at New York's Harvey Milk High School tell their life stories and concoct fantasies about their futures in a superbly produced German documentary. The kids' dreams are given the best possible production values. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Treasure hunt



Gay & Lesbian Historical Society archivist Paula Jabloner and a volunteer examine treasures from our queer past in the GLHS archives. The GLHS Pride 98 exhibit, *The Phyllis Lyon & Del Martin Papers, A Collection in Process*, remains on display through July 31 in two locations: the Hormel Center at the New Main San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center; and GLHS offices, 973 Market St., Suite 400. Call 777-5455 for more information. ▼



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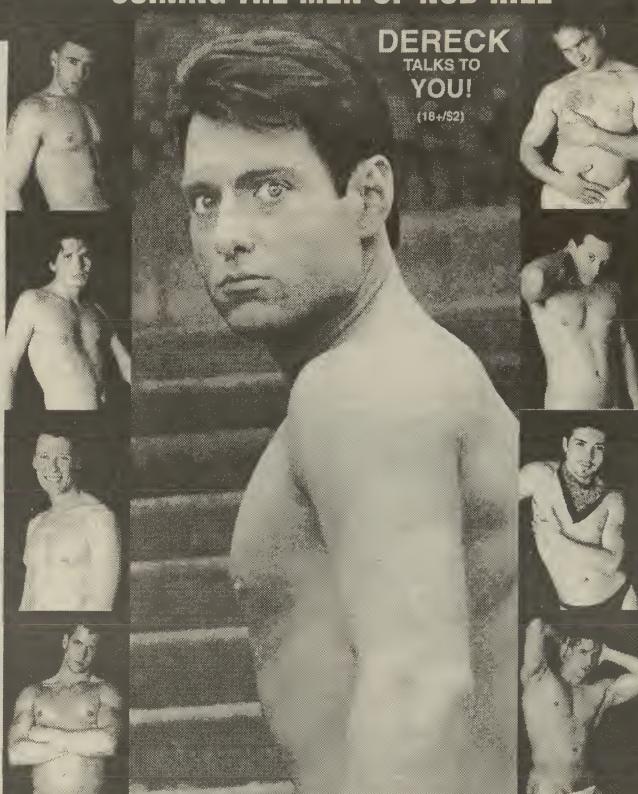
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GAY PRIDE WEEK



Uniform & Leather Ball

Friday, June 26, 1998, 8 pm - midnight

Featuring Gail Wilson & City Swing

Hosted bar and buffet in San Francisco's Civic Center area
50% of net proceeds donated to the AIDS Emergency Fund

Donation \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door

Tickets available at:

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Leather summer fun

by Mister Marcus

Now that IML is history, the summer months loom ahead, bulging with leather activities for you to plan your vacations around. The bar, city, state and regional Drummer contests have been in progress for several weeks now. Women are gearing up to compete for titles that will lead to the International Ms. Leather extravaganza in Atlanta July 17-19.

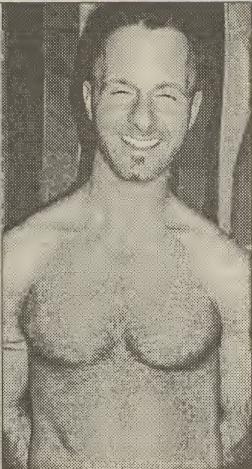
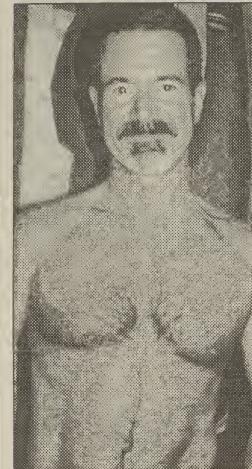
Numerous leather weekend fests are also on the horizon, including the many regional Mr. Drummer contests. They culminate here in September with the International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests on Sept. 26 and the 15th annual Folsom Street Fair on Sept. 27.

First up, this weekend in the Big Apple, it's the Leather Pride weekend with a big auction on Friday night at the Roxy (18th St. at 10th Ave.), 1900-2300. Leather title-holders and dignitaries will help augment the \$150,000 raised over the years. Proceeds will benefit Feminists for Free Expression, GMSMA Legal Defense Fund, Heritage of Pride and NGLTF's Policy Institute. Tickets are \$10 advance/\$15 door. On Sunday, June 21, it's the second annual Folsom Street East Fair on 13th St. between 9th Ave. and Washington St. Food, drink, live entertainment, community groups and vendors will be on hand to benefit the Anti-Violence Project. (There's also the Mr. Lure Leather contest on Friday night, but no details at my deadline.)

Here on the home front, this Sunday the SF Leather Daddies are hosting a Leather Daddy beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8, with food by Harvey's and an auction of dinner dream dates (Joe Gallagher, Kevin Kropp and George Carreras among others).

On Friday, June 26, the Phoenix Uniform Club presents its annual Leather/Uniform Ball at the Green Room in the War Memorial Bldg. (McAllister at Van Ness Ave.). Advance tickets are \$50 (Daddy's, Image Leather, Leather Zone, Stompers Boots, Worn Out West and Leather Masters in San Jose)/\$60 at the door. Gail Wilson & City Swing entertain, plus there's a full open bar and a fabulous buffet for this event which benefits the AIDS Emergency Fund.

On Sunday, July 12, if you find yourself in the Washington/Baltimore area, you might want to attend the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Drummer contest at the Baltimore Eagle. The Mid-Atlantic Drummer competition is being closely watched because of a new entry, Mr. Pennsylvania Drummer Scott Reikofski and Drummer Boy Ryan Goldner, making their debut for that state. (They just held the Mr. D.C. Drummer contest last



Mister Marcus

Mr. July Ben Greenwell (l) won the cover spot on the 1999 Bare Chest Calendar, and Mr. April Paul Tucci will grace the back cover.

Saturday night, June 13. Carl Baldwin took the title, and Mark Ladd is the new Drummer Boy.

Be aware that July 17-19, Atlanta takes center stage with the International Ms. Leather competition at the Variety Playhouse.

The action actually starts on Thursday, July 16, with a contestants' night out. On Friday, registration begins at the host hotel, Quality Inn Midtown (404-875-5511), with a \$75 fee for quad occupancy. The \$80 fee, which covers the vendor fair, basket auction, contest and victory brunch, is a bargain (\$65 without the brunch). Individual contest tickets are \$30. Contact Bare Images Production by either writing 4332 Browne St., Omaha, NE 68111-1829; phoning (402) 451-7987; faxing (402) 457-5350; or emailing IMSL@synergy.net.

Also July 16-20, Harry Lit presents the third annual Lazy Bear Weekend up at the host lodge, Fifes, at the RushRiv. No contests, no pageants, no frills. It's a laid-back bear gathering that last year drew almost 1,000 ursine wonders and their admirers! Money raised from this weekend will go to AIDS Benefits Counselors. Danny Williams emcees. For more info, contact Castrobear Presents, 584 Castro St., No. 374, SF, CA 94114.

On Sunday, July 26, it's the Dore Alley Fair. This is one of those little block parties that has blossomed into a major event, with people coming to SF just for this day. Details as they become available.

Colorado's leather communities do themselves proud once more with their Thunder in the Mountains leather gathering, July 31-Aug. 2, in Denver. Besides a fetish and fantasy ball on Friday, there's the Rocky Mountain Mr. Leather and Rocky Mountain Ms. Leather Pride contests on Saturday night. Play parties, exhibits and a leather market are special attractions. The weekend package

at this point is \$90. The host hotel is the Ramada Inn Central, 1150 E. Colfax St. (starting at \$60). For more info, call Rich Docter (303) 698-1207.

That same weekend, the Alameda County Leather Corps presents its leather pride soirée, "Beyond Leather Dome," featuring the Mr. & Ms. Alameda County Leather contest (\$35 in advance or \$40 after July 30). Steve Crouse gets roasted on Friday, July 31, at the Turf Club, followed by a fetish dance/auction. Vendor fair and demos are the rage during the day on Saturday, Aug. 1, and the contest is that night at BJM Hall with Lenny Broberg emceeing. Afterward, there's a victory party at the Driftwood Lounge. On Sunday, a leather walk through downtown Hayward ends at the Turf Club.

Pencil in the Great Lakes Drummer Contest in Columbus, Ohio, Saturday, Aug. 29, and quite possibly the Great Plains Drummer contest in St. Louis the final weekend in August. No details at my deadline.

In September, San Francisco Leather Pride Week kicks off on Sunday, Sept. 20, with the Leather Pride Walk from the Castro to Folsom. All the events for Leather Pride Week are not finalized yet; however, there will be the Fetish & Fantasy Ball, Mr. Drummer's Last Supper, and the aforementioned IMD contests and Folsom Street Fair. Understand that this summer fun list is by no means complete, but it will help fill your social calendar!

Back at the ranch

The 1999 Bare Chest Calendar contests closed June 11 with all 12 winners competing to see who would be on the cover. Judges Ingu Yun, Jerry Roberts, Graylin Thornton, Mark Seeba and Daniel Sonnenfeld had a tough time making their choice. However, Mr. July 1999 Ben Greenwell, 56, won the spot. The runner-up and back cover winner is Mr. April Paul Tucci. Miller Brewing and Golden Brands have gone all out to support the calendar. You can see all 12 winners on a special float in the pride parade.

Hey, Mister S has just come out with Supplement No. 4 to their already mammoth catalog; this one includes a giant sweepstakes give-away flier. Fill it out, and you could win a free trip for two to Hawaii or a \$1000 shopping spree at the store. The third prize is a Mister S deluxe leather jacket (a \$795 value!). Apply now! ▼

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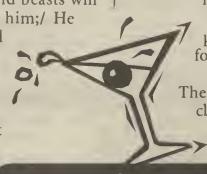
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A tale of two tiaras

by Sweet Lips

Well! I most definitely got an earful on my answering machine as regards that blind item about the "former royal muckety-muck" in my last column. My delicate shell-like protuberances may have been permanently violated! It seems that I offended a certain illustrious title-holder who bellowed most vociferously that I had betrayed my fellow blue bloods (I am a czarina and an empress, after all) by reporting on her decidedly tawdry activities. The only problem is that my little tale of woe referred to another titan of the tiaras, not the haranguing harpy who desecrated my princess phone. However, dear, I am sorry to hear about your troubles. Maybe if you spent less time publicizing them, people wouldn't cross to the other side of the street every time they caught sight of you barreling their way.

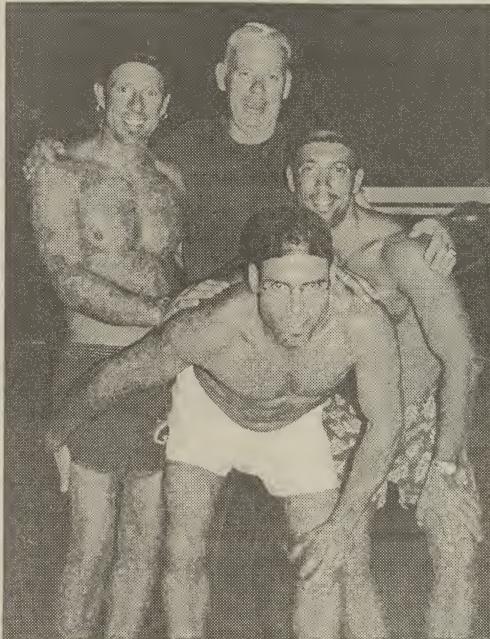
The assault above, recorded for posterity on tape, so jangled my nerves that I fled to my bedside companion (no, not the Jelly Vibro Tube), the *Tao Te Ching*, for a little solace. I happened to flip open to the exceedingly apropos Chapter 55 and found these comforting words: "He who is filled with Virtue is like a newborn child./ Wasps and serpents will not sting him;/ Wild beasts will not pounce upon him;/ He will not be attacked by birds of prey./ His bones are soft, his muscles weak,/ But his grip is firm./ He has not experienced the union of man and woman [that's me!], but is whole./ His



Cocktail Hour

manhood is strong./ He screams all day without becoming hoarse [ditto!]. This is perfect harmony./ Knowing harmony is constancy./ Knowing constancy is enlightenment./ It is not wise to rush about./ Controlling the breath causes strain./ If too much energy is used, exhaustion follows./ This is not the way of Tao./ Whatever is contrary to Tao will not last long." Needless to say, I am not contrary to Tao.

Famed Empress I José Sarria will be signing copies of her brand-spanking new book, *The Empress Is a Man* (Harrington Park Press, \$19.95), at Castro's A



Dream job: Dick Deemer fraternizes with his Fire Island Pines buddies.

Different Light Bookstore on Monday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m. José is a true legend, and not surprisingly, the book is a real treat — a hilarious page-turner you'd be a fool to miss!

Closet Ball update: The mist is lifting the clouds are parting, and yes, the 25th Closet Ball will be taking place on Saturday, August 8, at the GiftCenter Pavilion (Eighth and Harrison) at 7:30 p.m. Dennis "Nestec and Nasturtiums" Tyler is creating a dazzling array of table munchies that can be ordered along with your tickets (\$20-\$60) at the Giraffe Chandelier Lounge only (not Marlena's). Call 474-1702 for more information.

Another must-attend event is the faboo Pink Party at the Polk Rendezvous on Saturday, June 27, at 7 p.m. in the Pink Flamingo Room, featuring DJ Damjen. No cover if you wear pink! The next day, June 28, is Gay Pride Day in Faghdad by the Bay. The PR is throwing a pre-parade party starting at 9 a.m., with beer to go. After

the day's festivities, drop on by with your parade pickup for a post-parade pick-me-up at our tea dance (4 p.m.).

I had a nice letter from that wonderful Michael Greer (*Fortune and Men's Eyes*), who's opening at the air-conditioned Top Hat Playhouse in Palm Springs in July. He'll be starring in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. It's hard to believe that it's been almost 30 years since La Greer camped his way into everyone's hearts as the sensationally swishy landlord Malcolm in *The Gay Deceivers*!

David Slocomb's "Every Penny Counts" sidewalk sale raised \$1,800 (!) for the AIDS Emergency Fund last week. Thanks go to all the great volunteers, especially Marie.

That lucky Dick Deemer! The photo that accompanies this column shows Dick and his hunky co-workers at the Fire Island Pines. Can you pick out the 62-year-old in the pic? Hint: He's the one *not* showing off his bod! And Dick, why is that young honey grinding his tush into your nether regions? Never knew you were a top, doll! ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 18

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 2000-2300, \$7. Benefits Sunday brunches at SFGH.

Friday, June 19

SF Exiles host "Making a Scene" at Women's Bldg., 1930-2015, \$3 members/\$5 others. Call 487-5170 for details.

Weekend, June 19-21

Mr. LURE leather contest at that fabled bar in NYC on Friday. Gigantic leather pride auction at the Roxy on Saturday. Folsom Street Fair on Sunday. Lots of leather celebs — all events benefiting various agencies.

Saturday, June 20

First-ever Leather Puppy contest at the Powerhouse to benefit LYRIC, with \$2 bottle beer bust plus entertainment by Donna Sachet. Emceed by Miranda and Barry Rogers. Joey Faria head judge. I don't know if you have to bark or raise your leg highest to win, but fleas and cats are not allowed! Applications at The Edge and Powerhouse. Hosted by Mr. Hairy Chest and Mr. SFL '97.

Ms. GG Leather Erin Kelley hosts a beer/soda bust and raffle for her travel fund at Daddy's, \$7, 1500-1800. Hey, she needs the money for her hotel room in Atlanta, so come out, support her, and be generous.

Sunday, June 21

Pegasus MOC's one-day run to Pescadero. Meet at Castro Theatre at 0900; leave at 0930. Contact: pegasusmoc@rocketmail.com.

Leather Daddies beer/soda bust at SF-Eagle. See column for details.

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, \$6, with \$1 hot dogs and raffles.

Wednesday, June 24

Mr. Hairy Chest presents "Shakin' It Up" beer/soda bust at Daddy's, with "auction of the hottest men around" and stars of the leather and drag scenes.

Friday, June 26

Phoenix Uniform Club's annual Leather/Uniform Ball at the Green Room, War Memorial Bldg. See column for details.

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PARTING GLANCES

Market St. Safeway Fri 5-15
11:30 AM you skin-tight black & white pants with friend. Me speechless seeing your brightness. Found my voice. ☎ 2500

I lit your candle
At the AIDS candlelight walk. My dog seemed to want to be close to you, so did I. You-white jacket, dark hair, me-shaved head. Call. ☎ 2501

GAM leaving 4 London May 5th
Talked briefly at B of Powell/Market on Sat May 2. GWM would love to meet again. PIs call. ☎ 2502

Hey Alejandro:
5/9/98 You left the coatcheck before I had a chance to give you my #. Still remembering the taste of peanuts in your mouth. Give me a call. ☎ 2503

Civic CTR Munis Sat 5/16, 7pm
You reading book. I said, Hi. I had to board train, but you blew me a kiss from the platform. PIs call; I'd like to blow you...one too. ☎ 2504

Castro Muni underground
Tom hoping one day we can get together again, been thinking about you ever since I saw you. Harry. Forgot to get your number. ☎ 2505

River Bus-Guerneville 5/24
You're from Windsor, darkenes, beard, Lone Star Cap, really shy. I'm silver fox, you thought hot! So you. You mistook my kiss and left w/your roommate. I am available. Let's talk!!!! ☎ 2600

Market St Safeway Sat 5/25
Quick smile and nod, back of produce. More smiles, me- checkout; you still shopping. Me- 5'5", bzzd, purple T. You little taller, jacket, blue levis, glasses. Let's talk. ☎ 2601

PowerHouse Sat 23 May 98 2300hrs
You: Sean, 6'5", very handsome. Ex-USMC, new to SF. Me: David. Ret USMC MAJ you left before I could give you my ph. # still want to date in uniform? Call me. ☎ 2701

Bell Mkt. Post St. Sun, 6/7 5pm
You: Denim shirt, brown hair, killer eyes/ass. Me: Shaved head; "Mr. Green Jeans" Jacket. Our eyes kept meeting across checkout- would like other parts to meet. ☎ 2800

24 Divisadero Sunday 5/24 2pm
You told me about your Beagles. I told you about my layoff. I had a bucket and mop. I liked you. How about dinner? (I'm a good cook!) ☎ 2605

Young cowboy in black stetson
Seen you at My Place & Powerhouse. You mid 20's, Spanish features, clean shaven., said name is Ricky. Saw you liked to play with Beers. Let's connect. ☎ 2700

Rainbow grocery Sat 5/20 2:00
You: GGM in backwards baseball cap, followed me through produce. I had a cold didn't respond. Me: GGM salt-pepper, goatee. You're cool! Coffee? ☎ 2702

Cafe Luna Dolce Sun May 31st
1:00pm we sat at adjacent tables. You wore dark schwinn T-shirt, reading BAR I was with a friend, left to go to restaurant. We smiled. Like to meet? ☎ 2703

Rockridge gardener
Memorial day, around 6:30pm Me: Asian, blue jacket, with friend, walked by and couldn't help but watch. You: cute!
Smiled and said HI! Wanna play sometime? ☎ 2705

Tennis court @ Collingwood Park
Memorial day, around 6:30pm Me: Asian, blue jacket, with friend, walked by and couldn't help but watch. You: cute!
Smiled and said HI! Wanna play sometime? ☎ 2705

Jr's Walnut Creek May 1
You lookingfor stud boy 6' tall. Me older wifelikes asked me for directions to 12-20. Please call me your dream. ☎ 2506

Bike on BART 6/5
You-Musician, lived in Hawaii, spoke w/other biker. Me- long blonde hair, suit. Would you like to meet for coffee? ☎ 2807

Jason, Saint Mary's College
We talked on smokers Baypoint BART train. Lost your #. Let's get together to talk about writing. Tom. ☎ 2706

Wed 6/3 F-Line 7:45am
You asked "Did he call 4th St?" I hadn't noticed. You got off at 2nd St. Gave me a smile that made my week! Please call. ☎ 2801

Daniel @ Mack 6/2/98 W/lover
You are a super hot man! Loved our encounter! I have your underwear, give me a call to retrieve what's yours anymore! David. ☎ 2803

Walgreens Wednesday 6/3
You: Hot, handsome, brown hair, goatee, ice blue eyes, mustache, black jacket. We smiled at each other-Let's connect! ☎ 2804

Firewood Cafe-Election night
Seen you at My Place & Powerhouse. You mid 20's, Spanish features, clean shaven., said name is Ricky. Saw you liked to play with Beers. Let's connect. ☎ 2805

Crossed paths W/beautiful Asian!
Sat. 5/30 10pm. Serious eye contact (central) & a smile. See you beyond! Keri! Looking back! You/2 friends - me 1 friend opposite direct. On 18th. You cutiepie sweat. W/stripes? Me dark hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, earing. Black satin jacket (star) written on back in large white letters. Call me! Your beautiful! ☎ 2806

Real Food, Stanyan St 6/5 pm
You: handsome older WM, crew cut, whitish hair, black pants. Me: AWM, crew cut, glasses, yellow jacket. We exchanged numerous glances in store. Care to meet? ☎ 2807

Powerhouse Sun 6/7 10:30 Grey
Want to meet again????? ☎ 2809

Cala 6/10-4pm Diet Dr. Pepper
I made you feel guilty for taking all; I can make amends or give you something better to feel guilty about; maybe we could discuss over glass of Dr. Pepper (Diet). ☎ 2808

ISO Hot stripper named John
April 31st, n-to you I touched you and rubbed you down with oil. I haven't been able to forget you since. I need to talk to you. ☎ 2810

European bottom seeks LTR
Masculine, nice, well-educated European professional, 5'7", 170#, 34yo, bl/bl, goatee, seeks healthy nice, masculine top for sex, fun. ☎ 2709

Seeks godlooking Asian male.
Attractive GWM, German/American student, 24, blonde hair blue eyes 5'11", 150# smooth chest, athletic into volleyball, backpacking, new to San Fran, somewhat shy, sensitive, sees Asian/Pacific Islander. ☎ 2509

Looking for me?
Handsome man, 40yo, 6'2", crew cut, looking for sexy Latino, 18-45, tattooed-pierced +. Great kisser, spiritually refined; Let's lay the foundation & build HIGH! ☎ 2813

Caring stud Dad

Looking for...
A gym buddy hiking bike rider flexible schedule bonus good sex sessions. ☎ 2510

My baby got blue eyes
Cute GAM 32, 5'7", 135# HIV+, looking to date a GAM-like blonde/blue eyes, height/weight proportionate and attractive, age is open, clean shaven preferred. ☎ 2511

HIV+ seeks friends or more
I'm Latin, 27, attractive, 5'7", 165lbs, stable, I like movies, travel and natural things. Seeking Latins or whites over 21. N/S, no bar flies or chatroom addicts. ☎ 2512

Buscando un poco de amor
GWM professional looking for interesting Latino. 5'9", 160#, 36yo Lt brn/blue eyes interested in Latin arts & culture & bicycling cooking & theatre. Looking for masculine Latino 30-45 pref stocky. ☎ 2513

Couple seek slave
You need SM, CBT, chastity and use. Serve Master (37, 5'11", 165# white and boy (25 6', 165# black) Curious? Go ahead! Call and find out. ☎ 2514

Service for older gentlemen
30 yo strong masculine queen loves older men (40-80) may I service you on a regular basis? HIV+, just be a real friend. ☎ 2515

HIV+ Blk 5'10", 170#
Healthy, middle age man with good physical appearance seeking to meet a guy who has a lean physical appearance also, for friendship, weekend trips, companionship and make more. ☎ 2516

Tall blue-eyed Devil
6'4", 195lb, hard-body, brn/bl, godlooking, good loving, man. Big thick one. Versatile top, smart, Bohemian, heart full of love want a guy: Slim, in-shape, bright with passion for living, 4 loving. ☎ 2517

Crazy for Arab men
This 26 yo is dying to meet sexy, hairy Arab men for romance, dating and maybe more. Me: Good looking, br/b, passionate and well-hung. ☎ 2518

Big and Tall Dept.
6'8", 350#, GWM, 40- sports fanatic, gourmet cook or dining out. Movies or theater, sarcastic humor; sentimental; russian river weekends; for dating or maybe more. ☎ 2519

If I only had a brain
GWM 5'7" 140#, 47 Br/B, looking for brt capable of conversation beyond size stats and group visits. Doctors and anyone else operation with a sharp mind a plus. ☎ 2603

Love a Liberation
Fit same GWM, 40s, healthy poz 5'9". CWM, 40s, healthy poz, 5'9", 165lbs, hr chest, drk hr, spiritual, depthful, relating, you: Top, tall, masculine, no vices. ☎ 2604

Dad needed

You tongue down my throat, your hand dip up my ass. You boy for long term training. GWM, 5'7", 140#, dark hair, gay, healthy, safe life. (U2). You: masculine, good shape 27-45, any race, sincere, honest, for dates, LTR? only serious inquiries. ☎ 2715

Fantastic a little dream!
You and me? Me: SGWM, under 42, dark hair-eye a plus, godlooking, full of personality. Dating: girl LTR. ☎ 2716

GAM seeking bottom GWM
I am top Asian good looking guy, sweet boy, like traveling, music movie, spent quiet romantic night seeks bottom GWM home, nonsmoking friendly, friendly. ☎ 2717

GBM great catch in S. Bay

ISO BLK or L.GM, bodybuilder type. S. I. B. I. GBM nice body 34 yo 5'8", 175#, very nice NS, ND, versatile, 25 to 39 yrs old. Make the call, you will be glad. ☎ 2603

Healthy yng. married male

Prof. W/M, semi-retired, seeks a healthy married male for friendship. No recip. required. Prof East Bay. ☎ 2719

East Bay Latino

Attractive, young, 30s, 5'9", 155, smooth body-face, have clean, healthy, safe life. (U2). You: masculine, good shape 27-45, any race, sincere, honest, for dates, LTR? only serious inquiries. ☎ 2715

Fun Loving Going

Man/Asian/French clean/cut/HIV-, seeks other men. Me: Asian, fair hair for dating and possible LTR. ☎ 2608

Elegant senior wants younger

For sophisticated intellectual and physical erotic play. Very verbal, upper Haight my place. ☎ 2609

Crossed paths W/beautiful Asian!

Sat. 5/30 10pm. Serious eye contact (central) & a smile. See you beyond! Keri! Looking back! You/2 friends - me 1 friend opposite direct. On 18th. You cutiepie sweat. W/stripes? Me dark hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, earing. Black satin jacket (star) written on back in large white letters. Call me! Your beautiful! ☎ 2806

Fun Loving Going

Man/Asian/French clean/cut/HIV-, seeks other men. Me: Asian, fair hair for dating and possible LTR. ☎ 2608

ISO 30's GWM ISO 30's GWM who is:

intelligent, funny, sexual, attractive, strikingly handsome. In shape, smooth, romantic energetic, silly & sincere. Who loves: music, travel, movies, food & wine, laughter, time with friends, time alone. ☎ 2610

ISO permanent master/couple

Total Asian slave, experienced, eager to be owned. 5'8", 150, 36, HIV-, no games. Seeks full time position as domestic servant and sex slave. ☎ 2611

Horny GAM seeks GWM bottom

Friend or pos. LTR, HIV-, healthy, N/D, small build, under 5'11. Enjoy full on reg. basis. HIV+ preferred. ☎ 2612

Powerhouse Sun 6/7 10:30 Grey

Want to meet again????? ☎ 2809

Seeking Mr. Right

GWM, young 49, 5'9", 160, HIV+, 5'9", dark hair & eyes. Looking for a serious relationship-hope to adapt in the future. Enjoys theatre, outdoors, romantic dinners, and holding hands. ☎ 2724

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 32 yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM with 25-37yo, for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 2725

Much Ado about Nothing

Is my current obsession; hoping to hear from others who've really sunk their teeth into this play. Me: 31, Indian, unassuming, unstructured, friendly, garrulous. ☎ 2811

Attractive BM who's serious

43, 5'9", 140#, brn/bl, good looking, nice body, HIV+, seeks GWM for relationship. I'm a professional, seeking professionally into music etc. ☎ 2812

Bearish wants cubish...

GWM, 52, 6'7", 210#. Looking for an emotionally mature cub type, goaf: enjoy life together. I'm honest and communicative and would like the same. no tobacco use is nice. ☎ 2813

Loving Caring tall & slender

Prof. looks similar for friendship/LTR. Your age rate unimportant I'm anal top, HIV+, very sexual, 6'1", 165, 61, smooth body, well endowed, sensitive, tender, gentle, affectionate. No smokers/drugs. ☎ 2814

Emergency cocksucking service

Incl. late nite/early morning hard-ons. No frills 24-hr/7 day svc. No idle chitter. That relationship! No nothing except great cocksucking delivered to your door (or just inside). ☎ 2533

Just shut up and ride!!

33 WM, 5'10", 200lb, blu/muscle hunk, wants godlooking masculine chest, bottom only, seeks nice healthy, handsome tops for safe and fun. ☎ 2820

Caring stud Dad

Average looking, well established, 63yo 5'8", 180, GW msc, dad (big boy) needs GW masculine son/slave (lll brn?) please be 0/40 (or whatever) ☎ 2821

Are you ready for this....

GWM, top 48yrs, 5'3", 235, ISO GBM, bottom, HI & WT proportionate. No calls if you're under 35. Don't want any BS I just want a man. ☎ 2716

Rancher-Studley senior gent

6'2", 215, husky, burly, 53 GWM, beard, crewcut. Like agriculture, dogs, outdoors, C-span 1/2, intelligent conversation. Seeks oral younger, healthy, hairy men who know older men are hot friends/partners. I live 1 hr. of SF. ☎ 2711

WM 47 HIV+ seeks LTR/any race

for 6, 170+, attractive, emotional, available, average looking, mostlylonely. I like travel, friends, museums, day trips, humor, ethnic restaurants. NS give a call. ☎ 2714

Seeking nice Asian for lover

Loving, caring kind, honest, affectionate GWM, 6'-185#, br/bz/1 ISO slim, smooth, clean shaven Asian guy with nice qualities loving relationship. ☎ 2822

Summer Hot Love

Summer is nearing, cote Asian seeks another man to walk on the beach under the sun with Me 32, 5'7", warm firm. U be easygoing compassionate age close. ☎ 2712

Love and liberation

Fit, same GWM, healthy poz 5'9", 45, 160lbs, hr chest, drk hr, spiritual, deptful, relating, you: tall, thin, masculine, humorous. ☎ 2823

Down to earth GWM Soulmate

Soulmate by 38, 6'2", 185#, educated. Into films, Garth to Greek books, conversation, satirical humor, wet kiss, eclecti, spiritual ISO 33-45, HIV+, wt/wt proportionate, dark hair, a plu, centered, health aware, real. ☎ 2713

East Bay Latino

Attractive, young, 30s, 5'9", 155, smooth body-face, have clean, healthy, safe life. (U2). You: masculine, good shape 27-45, any race, sincere, honest, for dates, LTR? only serious inquiries. ☎ 2715

Dream a little dream!

You and me? Me: SGWM, under 42, dark hair-eye a plus, godlooking, full of personality. Dating: girl LTR. ☎ 2716

GAM seeking bottom GWM

I am top Asian good looking guy, sweet boy, like traveling, music movie, spent quiet romantic night seeks bottom GWM home, nonsmoking friendly, friendly. ☎ 2717

GBM great catch in S. Bay

ISO BLK or L.GM, bodybuilder type. S. I. B. I. GBM nice body 34 yo 5'8", 175#, very nice NS, ND, versatile. Blonds top with big firm butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 2524

A-1 Oral service-delivered

SF GWM, HIV+, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 2521

Oral/Older/Group

Hoping to form a small group 4-5 guys, 45+, who enjoy cock play and oral. Nothing kinky, just fun times with fun guys. Leave #. ☎ 2522

Totally radical righteous

Dude 26, yo seeks exciting adventures with generous gentleman. Into everything but the kitchen sink. Chow! ☎ 2523

Wanted: Big hairy firm butt

Well built top, hung big, needs well built WM (20's/30's) with big firm butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 2524

Bi AM seeks GWM for Greek play

BiAm seeks WM (18-20) for Greek play. I am 30, well-built, bottom handsome, professional. Blonds a+. ☎ 2525

ISO Gay Latinos

Muscular 9" hung GWM top seeks hung uncircumcised Latinos over 30 in San Jose for some hot fun you be heavy set hairy big +. ☎ 2526

GWM seek Black or Asian top

GWM, 43, HIV+, Blonde, brown, 160, 5'10". Looking for going top for top for sex, friendship, possible relationship. ☎ 2527

Seeking Mr. Right

GWM, young 49, 5'9", 160, HIV+, 5'9", dark hair & eyes. Looking for a serious relationship-hope to adapt in the future. Enjoys theatre, outdoors, romantic dinners, and holding hands. ☎ 2724

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 32 yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM with 25-37yo, for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 2725

Hot for U/C cocks-love to play

W/Foreskin. Chew on it, tug it, put a finger or tongue inside & circle your cock head. Sensual, warm play. Kissing, cudling, fondling, kissing, exploring hands & tongue. ☎ 2528

Discreet cock play & pleasure

Seeking buddy for extra play & pleasure. Undressing, getting into others briefs, fondling, kissing, exploring hands & tongue. ☎ 2529

Older GWM seeks younger man

Under 40 who has a particular attraction to being drawn to older gay men for friendship and sex. I'm 74, 5'7", 165, and fun loving/caring. ☎ 2531

Are you ready..

GWM, top, 48, 6'3", 235, ISO GBM, bottom, HIV+ prop. No calls if you are under 35. Don't want any BS I just want a man. ☎ 2522

Emergency cocksucking service

Incl. late nite/early morning hard-ons. No frills 24-hr/7 day svc. No idle chitter. That relationship! No nothing except great cocksucking delivered to your door (or just inside). ☎ 2533

Just shut up and ride!!

33 WM, 5'10", 200lb, blu/muscle hunk, wants godlooking masculine chest, bottom only, seeks nice healthy, fun massage. ☎ 2534

ISO: Black men

Who love to kick back and get great head by a hot Italian, 45, 6', 180#, beard, moustache, handsome, hot guy. Castro 12-5 am

Ebony males wanted

GWM, 6', 149#, brbl, 45 years young, trim lean masculine, goatee and top seeking ebony males 25-45, bottom, slender, to average and masculine for adventures. ☎ 2539

E. Bay Dad looking for boy..

Into bondage/submission/training, 18-35, some experience but eagerness to learn/please a +. Me-40's, inshape, experienced, sadistic but sane, limits respected over time. ☎ 2540

Black man wants to play
5' 6", 170lbs, big dick, discrete but versatile wants to play with other big dick discrete but versatile Black or Latino men. If you are looking for fun and serious sex action leave me a name and #. in the box. ☎ 2541

Master seeks slave for LTR

Full-leather 40's, healthy GWM looking for under 35, short, light-bodied, GWM for BD, SM, FF, dog training and more! Brains, tatts, piercings a +. ☎ 2542

Wanted: Hot HIV+ top

I'll suck your big cock till' hard. Fuck me long and slow for hour(s). Also, passionate kissing, trim and ball play/torture. Me: mid-age, good looking, 5'11", goatee, workout, fit, HIV+. ISO regular boyfriend, not LTR. You: under 40, any race, top, safe sex, can keep it up, no drugs (ok). ☎ 2612

Small slender men 18-40 wanted
By 53 yo masseur who enjoys massaging slim lean men. Free professional licensed one hour Swedish massage daytime Haight/Paranhandle area. Taotie Erotic massage also available after Swedish massage. ☎ 2613

Want to get it in you!!

8 thick inches. Uncut on a inshape, goateed handsome 38 year old blond. I want sincere younger bottom guys who want to play and get it right! ☎ 2614

Amazing piss sensation

My deep thrill will envelop your slit and bring your balls and bladder to explosive release. Under 35. Same day or night callback. ☎ 2615

Seeking man tonight

Submissive black bottom available in the evenings & some weekends. ☎ 2616

Come on down!

WM, 57, 5'6", 150, gray/balding seeks slim oral bottom who enjoys giving head and getting fucked. Age/race unimportant. HIV+, I'm a smoker own place. ☎ 2617

Good head for Latinas

Under 27, HIV+, who are in shape. By GWM, 23, brmhz. HIV+, discretion assured. NO fats/fems. ☎ 2618

Hot healthy HIV+

Man, seems like, be HIV-, 20-50 years, young and versatile for sex, fun & possible. LTR. Leave your #. ☎ 2619

Erotic touch

Healthy Asian with smooth body likes to be touched all over. When aroused, will want to be sucked off or fuck you. ☎ 2620

Get naked kick back and get
Sucked, great blowjobs for horny, white, masc., trim guys with generous, cut, man-sized cocks & balls. Talented hot mouth & tongue takes ur load, married men welcome I'll suck you dry!! ☎ 2621

Oral/Anal

Oral/anal bottom looking for fun time with hot hardcore, tall, well-endowed GWM 35-55. I am 5'8", salt and pepper, smooth with hairy legs, small moustache. ND, aroma okay. ☎ 2622

Hairy masculine bear

Hairy, masc. man 6', 200# looking for J/D buddy. Into hot verbal man to man sex. Sniffing, licking, talking dirty. Enthusiastic for masc. men. U2B. Hairy preferred. E/B preferred. ☎ 2623

ISO Marin SF hunk GM

Tis HIV+ pussy is ready, & hot for your cock. I deep throat slow. Then you fuck my tight ass. Hard as we cum GWM 5'2" 115# 55yr hot mouth and ready. ☎ 2624

Top this!

GWM 38' 195bs hairy and a bottom looking for a top to have fun with you by easy going, fun person. ☎ 2625

6ft Man Insatiable bottom
Hairy white male offers great head and clean talented butt for hung man 35 + all welcome, flexible scheduling, fun your pleasures, call me. ☎ 2626

Ready for ownership?

Daddy/master:GWM 6', 165#, fit, intelligent, 50s, stable, successful. You/slave/leash/chain/whip/cocktail, submissive, obedient, need direction & security. Same SM/BD, have dungeon. ☎ 2627

Young smooth BM

18-28, thin, small framed, big? Like to have it worshipped? Trim WM, 50'10" 160# wants to service you. No reciprocation must be clean. No anal. ☎ 2628

Older healthy HIV+ bottom

55, hard body toned 5'11", 170#, seeks top for fucking, sucking, kinky kink. ☎ 2629

Coveralls/Overalls

& other working mens uniform wear, masculine WM 36, seeking other masculine men to explore uninhibited gootimes. W/S & raunch a plus. ☎ 2630

Gulp it down real deep!!!

WM 40s HIV- very masculine good shape dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long session at your place in SF. ☎ 2632

Seeking adventure

23 WM cute tight butt, 5'11", slim, would like to get rape from 1 or 2 men W/L 27yrs or older with 8" or bigger, rip me! ☎ 2740

Four new arrived Chinese guys

Young and cute, two top, two bottom. Seek older appreciative gentlemen. Fun guaranteed. Playful and boyish. ☎ 2739

Very specific

If you like sucking a dad dick while you fuck his boy... If you like mutual rimming... If you like B/D & some W/S... Call for more info. You; trim & 30-50y. ☎ 2726

Wrestling

You grapple and get physical. Aggressive score with another wrestler, wearing singlet or speedos or nothing. Sweaty action where you are wrestled into submission. ☎ 2727

Expert sword swallower looking

For a few new ones. No job too big. Quickies preferred. No strings or BS. Forget the rest & call the best! ☎ 2728

Whacking off in the S. Bay

Need J/D partner. We'll do eachother on a steady basis. Must be discreet. Avail in afternoon a +. Any shape/size, just love to J/D. ☎ 2729

Zealous cock worshippers

ISO medium to large-thick, hard beauty for religious experience. If you have one and love to it worshipped, don't wait. Any age or race if you're in shape, cut a +. ☎ 2730

Exhibitionist W/M seeks Asian

Exhibitionist show off, 41, 5'11", 165, average guy, longer, hung 7x5", seeks Asian playmates for nude fun and daring adventures. ☎ 2731

Seek shared yearning, delights

GWM, 49, HIV+, trim in LTR where due to partners health sexual pleasures have diminished. Want to find someone of understanding simple for shared sexual desires, exploring, kissing, J/D oral, nice discreet guy would like reg. buddy. ☎ 2732

Aggressive Black men

GWM, 6', 160lbs would like to be dominated in bed by Black men> I want a deep throat and bottom for you to fuck. Available on call anytime. Yours... ☎ 2733

Kick back and let me

Suck your ass and swallow your cock! Hot, sexy Italian bottom, 45, 6', 175#, broad, buxom, and eager to get you off! ☎ 2734

Men 40's

Great full body massage on a table free to nicely build clean cut men. I'm 6", 175#, clean-cut prof, man 45, N/H, health conscious men only. ☎ 2756

Want J/D addict boyfriend

Do you jack for hours, can several times a day? Want a boyfriend who understands your intense, obsessive need to Jack? Who will join you? GWM, 30, wants younger. ☎ 2735

Great ass-eater needs blowjob

35 masculine, goodlooking, tall WM, wants great cock sucker while I eat ass. HIV+, very clean, clear, smooth 18-30, slim to fit, N/S please. Couples OK for hot sex. ☎ 2736

Horney butts wanted

I want to look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, probe, spank and screw you with my ass. A/G, 6'5", 250, football players build. You: Gay attrac., White Asian, Latin, 18-35, slim, nice butts a +. ☎ 2737

Hot pig bottoms wanted by:

54 yo white male 6', 155bs, bmbn/glassic big 9" cock wants to fuck young 18-36 w/o white or Latino smooth bodied pig bottoms. ☎ 2741

Like to be watched

GWM, 57, 5'10", 150#, would like to give blow jobs to give blow jobs to trim HIV-. Black men. No reciprocation necessary. Having a friend watch is a plus. ☎ 2742

Oral/S/M bottom

Hot giving front/rear service, W/S, getting butt reddened w/cat or flogger. ☎ 2743

Butt action

BLK healthy HIV+ 50+. Into clean ass eating any age race your place. ☎ 2631

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Asian sex buddy

Attractive muscular GAM, 35' 5'9", 174#, smooth, seeks well-built hunky guys 28-40 for TT, J/D, assplay, bodycontact, kissing and group scenes. ☎ 2826

Smooth bottoms wanted

BM, 6'1", 185lbs, clean shaven, muscular, masculine, hung, seeking Latinos, 18-30, masculine smooth butt a +. ☎ 2827

Seeking oral adventure

Tall GWM top, BJ source, 50, HIV+, smoker on this is SF looking for GWM (25-50) gay Friday or Saturday with cut for tasting, aromas ok. ☎ 2828

Want a Blk or Asian dick

GWM 5'11", 170lb- HIV- NS/ 20 to 35. Must be eachother on a steady basis. Must be discreet. Avail in afternoon a +. Any shape/size, just love to J/D. ☎ 2829

Looking for a fight!

I take orders to rim & then you fuck, then you order me to clean off your cock, then you order me to leave. ☎ 2356

Diapers!

Seeking, dung, fun and audacious guys into wetting, regression, submission, boyish pranks, or just playing baby. ☎ 2357

Sock boy sought

By aggressive WM. Forced outdoor sock-walks, BD, VA, forced smelly socks, humiliation & control. Must crave being forced to go around in stocking feet. ☎ 2358

FETISHES**No reciprocation**

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Asian sex buddy

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Jeff CMT

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Advance booking preferred. Tourists are also welcome. Out call only.
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\$60 Jim 267-1817

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by sexy well-built stud

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endly guy Great Mass \$45 387-9451

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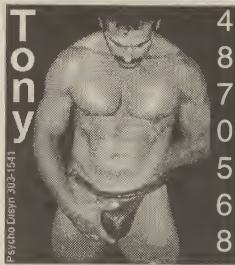
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PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS



SEXY BOY W/O ATTITUDE
RICK 415-551-0832

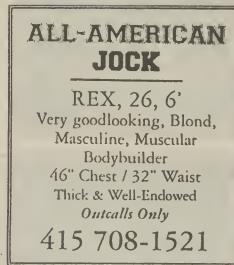


Tony
4
8
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6
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PS photo design 303-5441



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46
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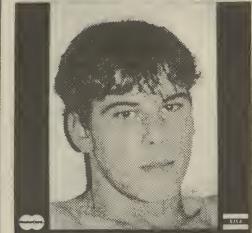


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Muscle stud will drive you to Heaven.
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2 19 YR OLDS E29

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E29

HANOI VIETNAM GUY E29

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A EUROPEAN ESCORT

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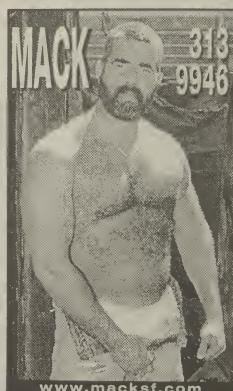
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pg 207-2715

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E28

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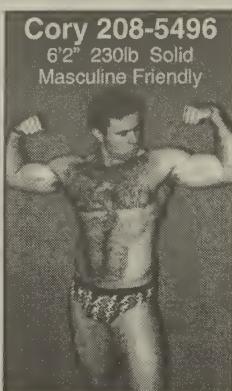
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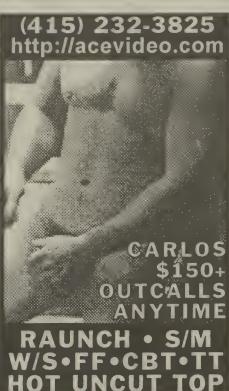
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E25

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E25

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on Visa and MasterCard.

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Expiration Date
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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Number of Issues _____ Classification _____
Amount Enclosed _____

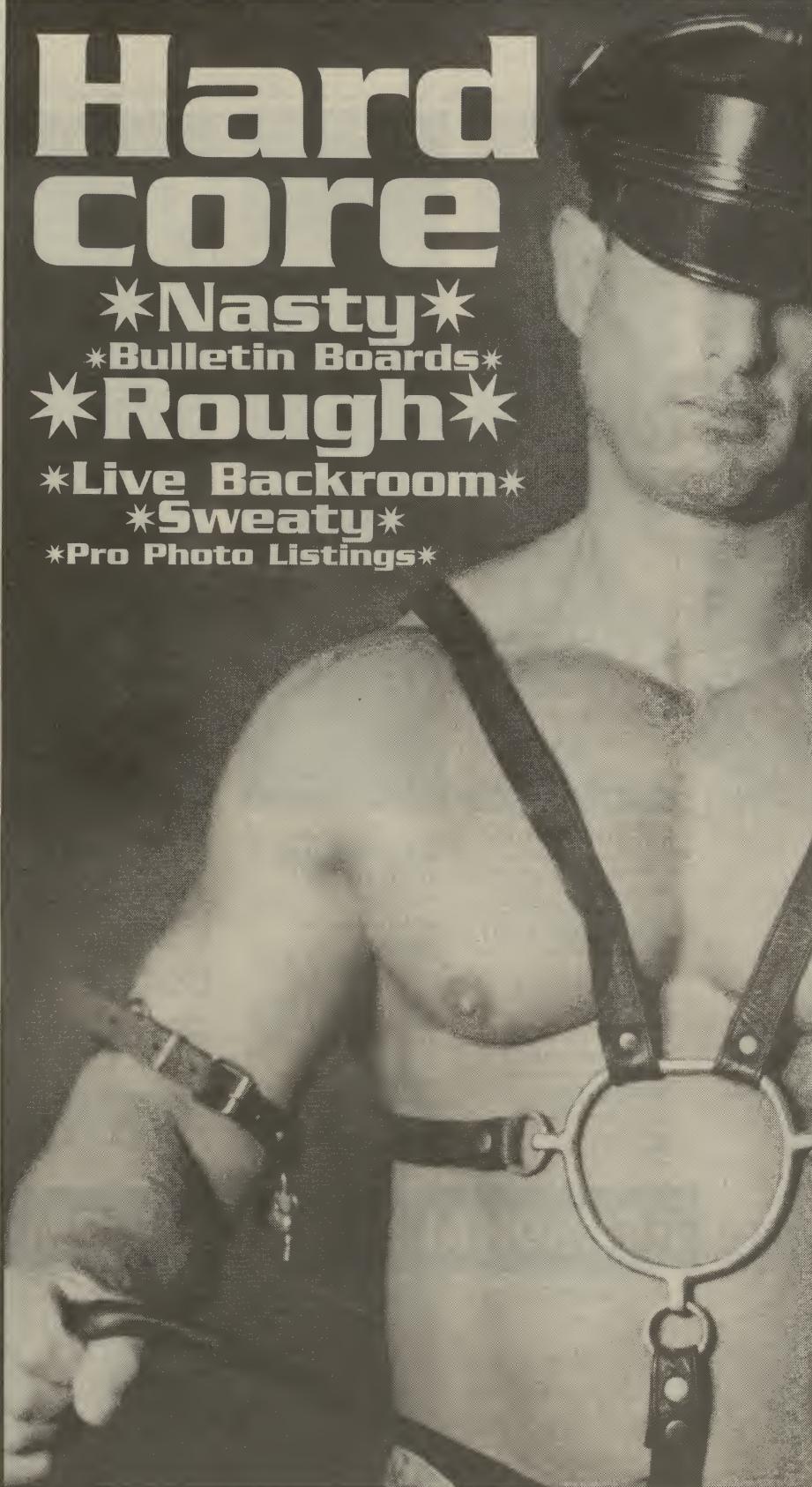
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